



February 13, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support w Amendment: HB 194 – SHA Highway Work Permits – Pedestrian Access

Dear, Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate. Our members operate throughout the state; many are part of organizations with national and international experience managing complex construction projects in urban environments. This experience highlights the imperative of prioritizing pedestrian safety around construction sites and the challenges it presents.

The issues raised in HB 194 are broad and are also currently the subject of a bill currently being considered by the Montgomery County Council. We would like the opportunity to look at best practices from other jurisdictions to bring this state bill and the council legislation into agreement so that there may be some consistency between local and state roads.

We believe the approach needs to ensure safety while also considering logistics and the sequence of construction in congested urban areas. By way of example, among the issues we would like to consider are how to address:

1. Safe, alternative pathway
2. Storage of construction materials and use of the right-of-way
3. Use of curb and travel lanes
4. Application to existing permits
5. Geographic scope
6. Convenience parking

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.M. Ballentine". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.

- The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies that build and own commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate.
- The experience our members have managing complex construction projects in urban environments highlights the imperative of prioritizing pedestrian safety around construction sites and the challenges it presents.
- SB 285 attempts to result in standards that ensure pedestrian safety while also considering the sequence of construction and challenging logistics of building in congested urban areas.
- A similar bill being considered by the Montgomery County Council.
- We have asked Senator Lee and Delegate Korman, the House sponsor, for the opportunity to look at best practices from other jurisdictions and to bring this state bill and the council legislation into agreement so that there may be some consistency between local and state roads.
- Safe, alternative pathway – away from the job site
 - Storage of construction materials and use of the right-of-way
 - Use of curb and travel lanes
 - Application to existing permits
 - Geographic scope
 - Convenience parking