



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 194 Support

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 13 2020

HB 194: Pedestrian Access Act of 2020

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We in the City of Takoma Park strongly support efforts to increase pedestrian safety and secure access to public transit during construction on state highways.

The City of Takoma Park has many state highways and extensive experience living through construction on these roads. Currently, with construction of the Purple Line underway, we are seeing firsthand the difficulties and dangers pedestrians face navigating a work zone to access public transportation.

Requiring pedestrian access at work sites that are within two miles of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority rail services or transit stations or Maryland Transit Administration transit stations, including Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) stations; and requiring the State Highway Administration to adopt certain regulations governing pedestrian access in areas subject to a highway work permit is just common sense. It is unfortunate that such common sense legislation is needed, but based on the City's experiences working with contractors and others who perform work on state highways, accommodating and ensuring the safety of pedestrians is not their top priority.

As we change and make improvements to our highways, it is also imperative that we do not discourage or make accessing public transportation dangerous. Our top priority needs to be on pedestrian safety.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park strongly supports HB 194 and urges a favorable vote.