



Montgomery County's Advocates for Better Transportation

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Pedestrian Access on State Highways During Construction Testimony on HB 194 - Support

House Environment & Transportation Committee, February 13, 2020

The Action Committee for Transit strongly supports HB 194, which would require the State Highway Administration to maintain pedestrian access near train stations during construction projects.

Transit-oriented development has become the lifeblood of our economy. As a result, construction projects are multiplying near train stations, especially in Montgomery County. At this moment in downtown Bethesda, for example, seven construction cranes are visible looking down MD 355 past the Metro station and future Purple Line station.



This is wonderful news for our state economy. But there is an unfortunate side effect for people who live or work in these growth centers. So many sidewalks are closed for construction that it becomes hard to walk around.

The reason these places are flourishing is that people can get there without a car and continue to move around once they arrive. Sidewalk closures don't just inconvenience the people who live, work and shop in these downtowns, they undercut the very basis of their success.

This is a fixable problem. House Bill 194 requires the State Highway Administration to come up with a solution. We urge you to give a favorable report to HB 194.