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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 285**

**TITLE:**                State Highway Administration - Highway Work Permits -  
Pedestrian Access (Pedestrian Access Act of 2020)

**SPONSOR:**          Senator Lee

**COMMITTEE:**        Finance

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 12, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 285 – State Highway Administration - Highway Work Permits - Pedestrian Access (Pedestrian Access Act of 2020). This bill would require that a person who has obtained a highway work permit and performs this work within two miles of certain transit stations maintain pedestrian access at the work site.

Pedestrian safety and public transit access are priorities for Baltimore County, and this legislation would further both of those policy objectives. Commutes that are interrupted by highway construction discourage commuters from utilizing public transit or walking to work. Safety hazards can arise when pedestrians walk on the side of the road or use alternative routes not intended for pedestrian traffic. Workers who cannot afford a car are disproportionately affected by these interruptions, as they have no alternative to get to work.

SB 285 mitigates these risks by ensuring that highway construction projects maintain pedestrian access at the work site, eliminating the impediment to the flow of foot traffic for commuters who wish to walk or utilize public transit.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 285. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.