



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SB 285 Support

Finance Committee

February 12, 2020

SB 285: Pedestrian Access Act of 2020

Contact: Kate Stewart, Mayor

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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 SB285 and urges a favorable vote.