

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 8, 2022

Delegate and Committee Chair Kumar P. Barve
Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

Re: HOUSE BILL 53 - **Support** Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee,

We are writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability in **support** of House Bill 53, Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has 21 members, 20 of whom are Mayoral appointees, and oversees the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB53. Effective enforcement of bus lanes would support the implementation of key transportation strategies identified in the Sustainability Plan, including:

- Enact policies that promote city and regional priorities for pedestrians, transit, and alternative forms of transportation.
- Improve reliability, accessibility, safety, and efficiency of transit while reducing the environmental impacts of vehicles.

HB53 is important for achieving equity in Baltimore because of the critical importance that safe and reliable public transit to citizens without consistent access to a personal vehicle. Enhanced performance of the transit system, as supported by functioning bus lanes, can also reduce personal vehicle traffic in the City, which will improve air quality, reduce noise, and create safer pedestrian conditions that are particularly needed by those who live in high traffic areas. We urge you to support House Bill 53.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chair, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Lewis