



HB 656- Support
Dr. Neiunna Reed-Jones
Black People Ride Bikes
blackpeopleridebikes@gmail.com
734-883-1409

HB 656 Support
Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act

Environment and Transportation Committee
February 17th, 2022

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Hello, My Name is Dr. Neiunna L. Reed-Jones, the Co-Founder of Black People Ride Bikes, Inc, a Bikemore Board of Directors Member and Vice President of Carroll Park. I am also an avid Black Woman Baltimore Cyclist within the Black Community.

Black People Ride Bikes, Inc. (BPRB) is a Baltimore-based non-profit cycling advocacy organization established in 2019. BPRB was founded by me and Shaka Pitts to introduce people of the black diaspora to the many benefits of cycling. Our mission is to bring cycling awareness to the black diaspora by building a community of black cyclists with a focus on exploration, health, and advocacy. We want to celebrate black cyclists within a white-dominated sport or lifestyle. As an organization, we work to introduce black cyclists in every age bracket, socioeconomic background, ethnicity, or experience level. We work to introduce black cyclists to safe cycling practices such as group riding, overall bike safety, riding within a city environment, riding in rural areas and as a form of sustainable transportation. We also work very closely with City Government, local parks and other cycling/pedestrian advocacy groups such as Bikemore and Rails to Trails Conservancy. BPRB works diligently to advocate for safe cycling infrastructure throughout Baltimore focusing on traditionally black communities that are typically ignored when cycling and/or pedestrian infrastructure decisions is made.

I am in support HB 656 because as I have personally observed in Baltimore, traditionally black communities and communities effected historically by racial discrimination practices such a red lining throughout the country go over-looked and underserved when pedestrian safety infrastructure plans are developed. Black communities have a very high rate of traffic fatalities and pedestrian injury, however, overall, the State of Maryland should make pedestrian safety is paramount everywhere, this will be displayed by numerous crosswalks, increased bike lanes, speed limit signage and improved traffic calming measures. This is equity issue, it's a race issue and a class issue. Unless Maryland is deliberate about building safe pedestrian environments equitably it will not happen in black communities. HB656 will make pedestrian safety equitable for all within the State of Maryland.

I urge a favorable report of HB 656.