



March 3, 2022

**House Bill 1153**

**Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Riding  
on Sidewalks**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1153 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Riding on Sidewalks. State law currently prohibits people, including children, from riding bicycles and play vehicles on sidewalks unless the local jurisdiction expressly permits them to by ordinance. HB 1153 will instead authorize a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance.

Anne Arundel County unanimously passed bipartisan legislation in 2021 to allow the riding of bicycles, play vehicles, and unicycles on public sidewalks and sidewalk areas. There are many children in Maryland who bike to school, and riding on sidewalks in areas where there are no paved trails is the safest option for them. Additionally, many Marylanders rely on bicycles for transportation but live in areas without a full network of bike lanes and trails to ride on. Making riding on sidewalks the default would allow our young riders and our bike commuters to safely ride out of the road and out of harms way of vehicles.

HB 1153 will allow an alternative where it is much safer for bicyclists to be on the sidewalks rather than on the road. Changing the state default to the safer option will help save lives.

This legislation will change the default statewide to allow a person to ride a bicycle on sidewalks, and still offers control at the local level by allowing jurisdictions to prohibit this action. For all of these reasons, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1153.