



City of  
**Salisbury**  
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

17 February 2022

**Committees:** Environment and Transportation & Appropriations

**Testimony on:** HB 656 – Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2022

**Position:** Favorable

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation and Appropriations Committees,

As you consider the merits of **HB 656**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **HB 656** a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports HB 656, which will improve roadway safety and help to prevent pedestrian and biker fatalities. This bill is important because it prioritizes public safety and makes critical investments in improving the safety of roadways throughout Maryland.

HB 656 will:

- Require the State Highway Administration to conduct an analysis of intersections and corridors with a high rate of pedestrian and bike injuries
- Increase spending levels to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Encourage the implementation of Context Driven Design Elements and FHA Proven Safety Countermeasures.


In Salisbury, we continue to prioritize the safety of our residents, and we have taken numerous steps to make our city walkable and increasingly more bike-friendly. Whether constructing bike lanes that allow cyclists and pedestrians to traverse through the core of our city to the heart of Downtown Salisbury, to implementing traffic calming patterns in residential areas, Salisbury is proud to serve as a leader amongst Vision Zero cities as we proactively work to make our streets a safer place to drive, bike, and walk.

Taking meaningful action, we created a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) in 2014 to advise elected leaders and staff and to help shape our Vision Zero Action Plan as we work to realize our mission of ending traffic fatalities and serious injury by 2030. The work of Salisbury's BPAC led to the creation of our Vision Zero Taskforce in 2019 as we demonstrated our commitment to adopting Vision Zero best practices in our traffic and engineering policies.

If enacted, the SAFE Roads Act of 2022 will prioritize the safety of Marylanders across our state. Roadway fatalities are wholly preventable, yet we must actively work to ensure that our roads remain safe for all modes of transportation, whether via a vehicle, on a bicycle, or by foot. As we work to embrace safer roads, our work prioritizing public safety will also yield dividends in the fight against climate change. As we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for transportation, safer roads will encourage Marylanders to reduce their carbon footprint by walking or biking.

I ask for your **support** of this vital public safety and transportation legislation.

Respectfully,



Jacob R. Day  
Mayor