

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 64 – State Highways – Designated Shoulder Areas – Establishment and Use by Transit Buses**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation takes no position on House Bill 64 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 64 authorizes the MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), in consultation with the MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) and the Maryland State Police (MSP), to establish designated shoulder areas on State highways for use by State and local transit buses. The MDOT SHA would be required to post signage along the highways notifying transit bus drivers of the beginning and end of the designated shoulder.

Designated shoulder areas for transit buses often allows them to bypass congestion events in designated locations. Improving the speed of transit relative to single-occupancy vehicles is a strategy for promoting the use of transit, contributing to a cleaner environment, and reducing congestion.

The MDOT SHA currently has the authority to manage traffic patterns of shoulder areas on State highways and designs certain roadways to have shoulders large enough for bus usage, such as I-695 and US 29. While the MDOT recognizes the intent of the legislation, additional requirements and regulations may impact the MDOT SHA's traffic operations by requiring signage and management of the transit designated shoulders.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 64.

Respectfully submitted,

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