

Testimony in Support of HB 73: Baltimore City – Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Programs – Funding

To: Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Daniel Richman

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My name is Dan Richman. I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, legislative District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 73, committing traffic fines revenue to Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets-related improvements.

I walk to work on Fayette and Orleans in East Baltimore, often alongside families and kids on their way to Commodore John Rodgers, William Paca, and Tench Tilghman schools. It is challenging and scary for all of us because streets in this area are car-centric to a ridiculous and dangerous extreme. And walk and wheelchair infrastructure is shoddy and insufficient.

Neighborhoods around me in East Baltimore and all over Baltimore are not only unsafe, but also lose economic and cultural activity like stores, restaurants, and gathering space. The city and state have been prioritizing car driving and parking in neighborhoods instead of moving people in and between neighborhoods more efficiently and safely.

To start fixing these problems, programs like Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets need more funding. Using fines from traffic monitoring systems for projects that will help pedestrians and other non-car users of streets is a fair way to use those fees.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB 73.