



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones  
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee**

**In Support of HB1153  
Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Riding on Sidewalks  
March 3, 2022, 1:00 pm**

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

I come before you today to introduce HB 1153, which would help create safer and more consistent transit policies.

Current Maryland law forbids bicycles on sidewalks as the default statewide. However, localities can and have overridden this law for safety and other reasons. Unfortunately, this has inadvertently created inconsistency throughout Maryland for cyclists. In many areas of our state, roads will switch between state, county, and city roads a number of times leading to confusion for those commuting by bike. If this law was consistent throughout the state, not only would those commuting by bike be safer, but it would also help avoid confusion on which laws to follow when traveling across jurisdictions. All of this, of course, is compounded by the safety issues for bicyclists sharing our major roads with vehicles.

This bill would amend state law to say that, unless disallowed by local ordinance, a person may ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area - with the caveat that riders shall proceed in a safe manner, yielding to pedestrians.

As many of you may know, localities throughout the state have already enacted similar local bills including Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties, as well as the Capital City of Annapolis.

Implementing this more consistent policy around bicycle usage will add to safety for bikers, help to reduce traffic violence to cyclists, create safe routes to school for our kids & address transportation disparities. It can help ensure that Marylanders have access to a safer, more sustainable, and affordable transportation method.

I am so proud to have the endorsement of the Maryland Transit Caucus. I also want to thank all the advocates I worked with on this legislation as well as those who submitted testimony.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this simple consistent bill for Marylanders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones