

On behalf of the Action Committee for Transit, I ask for a FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION for this bill.

This bill would require SHA to make their roads less dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, bus riders, and other vulnerable road users. And it would provide the funding for this. They should support it.

For years, we have asked SHA to make meaningful changes to prevent pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and deaths. Unfortunately, in most cases, SHA says no. And even when they say yes, they still don't make the changes. Meanwhile, every day, people are using the dangerous roads SHA is responsible for.

In my written testimony, I've included some examples of requests where they said yes but still haven't done anything, or they said yes but not now, or they should have included it in their project from the get-go but didn't.

So I will just use the rest of my time to list some of the actual reasons SHA has provided for why they won't, can't, or shouldn't make a road crossing safe for pedestrians.

- Because it's dangerous to cross there.
- Because not enough people cross there.
- Because then more people would cross there.
- Because then people would think it's safe to cross there.
- Because people can cross somewhere else.
- Because nobody has been hit there yet.
- Because nobody has been killed there yet.
- Because typically drivers don't hit people there.
- Because it already is safe, if drivers are law-abiding.
- Because it's too complicated.
- Because drivers would have to wait too long.
- Because the speed limit is too high.
- Because engineering standards don't allow them to.
- Because they have to do another study.
- Because they're waiting for a different plan.

This has to stop. It's SHA's job to provide roads that are safe for EVERYONE. We need the SAFE Roads Act of 2022.