

CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

District Office
1134 York Road, Suite 200
Lutherville -Timonium, MD 21093
410-823-7087

February 16, 2022
The Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401
The Honorable Delores Kelly

Re: SB 584 – Task Force on Traffic Patterns and Infrastructure on MD Route 45 (York Road)

Dear Chairwoman Kelly and members of the Committee,

Maryland Route 45 (York Road) runs through the heart of central Towson. When I was a child growing up in Towson in the 1950s, it was a sleepy community, and York Road was a quiet, little-traveled thoroughfare. Not so these days. In the past 20 years, Towson has been completely transformed. A vibrant town, verging on city, has developed around York road with a plethora of amenities from restaurants and grocery stores, to retailers, office buildings, condominiums, high rise university student housing and the like. The density of population within two blocks of York Road yields a high volume of daily traffic. The high traffic volume presents infrastructure challenges relating to congestion, parking, and pedestrian traffic.

This situation presents exceptional difficulties because the five blocks of York Road in central Towson are literally a pinch point. South of central Towson, York Road is four lanes wide, and north of central Towson, York Road is four lanes wide. In between however, particularly as there is parking along both sides of the road, the traffic has to squeeze into a single lane in each direction.

Senate Bill 584 establishes the Task Force on Traffic Patterns and Infrastructure for York Road to study and make recommendations on specified traffic, parking, usage, and signage issues along the road.

The Task Force will examine traffic patterns and infrastructure on York Road, from the intersection of York Road and Fairmount Avenue on the north to the intersection of York Road and Stevenson Lane on the south, including all streets intersecting this section of York Road. Thus the study is limited to the stretch of York Road in the vicinity of central Towson; it will not cover the entire York Road corridor from the City Line through Lutherville, Timonium, Cockeysville and Hunt Valley to the Pennsylvania Line. The study will examine the effects and advisability of restricting or removing street parking along this section of York Road; the feasibility and advisability of creating a bike lane and expanding sidewalk width for increased walkability along this section of York Road; and the effectiveness of current signage in encouraging motorists to utilize the existing Bosley Avenue bypass and potential ways of increasing sign effectiveness.

Senate Bill 584 was requested by the Towson Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Towson Committee.

This bill was considered by the Baltimore County Senate Delegation on Monday, and a vote will be taken at our next meeting. Delegate Forbes has the cross-file of this bill.

If the vote is favorable, I will forward the Delegation's endorsement letter to the Finance Committee.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 584 and will be more than happy to answer and follow-up questions the committee may have.