



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

Live the life you want.

Subject: Favorable HB053
To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
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Date: March 22, 2022

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to give a favorable report to HB053, Funding for Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Programs in Baltimore City.

Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe use and support safe mobility for all. By the nature of their disability, blind people are pedestrians and users of public transportation. Complete Streets reduce the risk to pedestrians by including more sidewalks, improving crosswalks, and including signage for both drivers and pedestrians.

Currently, public transportation in Baltimore City is very inefficient. In other cities, the Complete Street concept has dramatically improved public transportation; therefore, this benefit should occur in Baltimore as well. This bill designates specific existing funding, so there is no reason why Complete Streets cannot become a reality.

The goal of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland is to encourage blind people to live the lives they want. We support the full integration of the blind into all aspects of economic and community life. Improving public transportation and protecting the rights of pedestrians will enable blind people to fully participate in all realms of society. Please vote “yes” for HB073.

