



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Christiana Rigby
Councilmember

District 3

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0053

Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Prohibition and Monitoring Systems

March 22, 2022

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee. I am writing to express my **strong support for HB0053**, legislation introduced by Delegate Lewis that would strengthen protections for dedicated bus lanes and enhance bus transit systems in Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, the transportation sector is the single greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. This is largely driven by the prevalence of our car-centric transportation infrastructure, which has been expanded over decades. When compared to a single-occupancy vehicle, the average public transit bus emits roughly 33% fewer greenhouse gas emissions per person. We have a significant opportunity to address climate change by revitalizing and strengthening our public transit infrastructure in Maryland.

Currently, many bus transit systems are hampered by poor traffic conditions and service interruptions, which result in longer headways, delays, and infrequent service. HB0053 seeks to address these challenges by preventing single-occupancy vehicles from illegally driving in dedicated bus lanes in Maryland. For growing jurisdictions like Howard County, this type of legislation expands the options in our toolbox to improve transit access and efficiency. Dedicated bus lanes have the potential to reduce traffic and better connect residents with services and opportunities that they are seeking, such as employment, education, and healthcare access.

As you review HB0053, I encourage you to support efforts to strengthen, protect, and promote sustainable public transportation options in our state. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christiana Rigby".

Christiana Rigby
Howard County Councilmember, District 3