

Wes Moore Governor

Aruna Miller Lieutenant Governor

Paul J. Wiedefeld Acting Secretary

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

## RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 95 – Counties – Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 95 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 95 would require county governments to identify areas around each public school in their jurisdiction where students are ineligible for transportation services, as well as locate existing safe routes to school where those students can travel between their homes and assigned school. Based on that report, the county would then be required to construct any sidewalk and crosswalks that is identified as a need. If construction for a sidewalk or crosswalk would impact a road outside of the county's jurisdiction, the owner of that roadway must collaborate with the county on the county's plan for construction.

The MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) looks forward to continuing the partnerships with local partners to ensure the development of safe routes to school for students. As part of the existing business processes, SHA works closely with counties and local jurisdictions to identify needs and potential improvements along SHA roadways.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 95.

Respectfully submitted,

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