
March 17, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee 251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: House Bill 70 - Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023

Dear Chair Barve:

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) appreciates and supports the intent of House Bill 70 and thanks the bill sponsor, Delegate Charkoudian, for her commitment to protecting vulnerable users. The priorities outlined in House Bill 70 are in line with SHA's goals to implement context guide design elements and work to achieve "Vision Zero." The SHA is committed to implementing several of the priorities prescribed in the bill as outlined below.

The SHA will implement context guide design elements in all capital projects; this includes resurfacing projects, signal projects, safety and spot improvement projects, as well as minor and major reconstruction projects.

The SHA will also provide information to the General Assembly on personnel as prescribed in the bill. This data will include information on staff positions dedicated to the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements and the use of contractor resources for pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

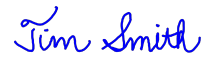
The SHA will provide the number of approved signalized crosswalks on State roadways, including pedestrian hybrid beacons, as well as the construction schedule.

Finally, SHA will perform an analysis and develop a plan for all state highways located in suburban activity centers or traditional town centers which will include an installation plan and timeline for safe pedestrian crossing and the use of signalized crossing. SHA will also include a plan and timeline for placing pedestrian crossing, where appropriate, every one-fourth mile within or adjacent to census tracts with significant transit dependency and a population density that exceeds 10,000 people per mile.

The SHA looks forward to continuing to work with Delegate Charkoudian and the Committee to achieve Vision Zero and make Maryland roads safer for all users. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Honorable Kumar Barve
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue color.

Tim Smith Administrator

cc: The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland House of Delegates
The Honorable Sara Love, Maryland House of Delegates