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**BILL NO.:**            **HB 70**

**TITLE:**                **Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023**

**SPONSOR:**            **Delegate Charkoudian**

**COMMITTEE:**        **Appropriations**

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                **February 2, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 70 – Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023. This legislation requires the Department of Transportation to recommend and implement Context Driven and Proven Safety Countermeasures design elements for new construction projects.

It is vitally important to keep roadways safe for all those using them. Last session, Baltimore County prioritized legislation imposing stricter penalties on violations that result in the injury or death of vulnerable road users. As many make the decision to switch to more active, environmentally friendly modes of transportation, it is critical that the design and construction of public roads accommodate vehicle alternatives. The Federal Highway Administration’s Proven Safety Countermeasures initiative was designed to reduce roadway fatalities by outlining national best practices for the design and construction of roadways factoring in speed management, roadway departure, intersection design, and accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists. The State Highway Administration’s Context Driven guide provides a foundation for road construction which promotes safe multi-modal access to roads across the State.

House Bill 70 would further Baltimore County’s efforts to provide safer roads for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout Maryland. The implementation of Context Driven design elements and Proven Safety Countermeasures in the planning and construction of State roadways would create a safer and more equitable standard for all future construction projects. By encouraging alternative modes of transportation, this legislation would promote the use of environmentally friendly transit alternatives.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 70. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).