



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 70- SAFE ACCESS FOR ALL (SAFE) ROADS ACT OF 2023

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

During the 2019 Session, the General Assembly committed to a Vision Zero Goal of zero vehicle-related deaths by 2030. We are not on track. The following table captures the data for pedestrians and bicyclists involved in accidents in Maryland since 2019.

	Pedestrian Deaths	Pedestrian Injuries	Bicyclist Deaths	Bicyclist Injuries
2019	124	2,750	10	686
2020	130	2,000	16	580
2021	125	2,185	6	583

Title: Maryland Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatality and Personal Injury Crash Data 2019-2021<sup>1</sup>

Maryland's numbered highways are maintained by the State Highway Administration (SHA). Many incorporated cities, towns, and villages, and most unincorporated places in the state are served by these state highways. This legislation would require the SHA to:

- Analyze and plan for implementing context-driven safe pedestrian crossings in SHA-defined "Suburban Activity Centers" and "Traditional Town Centers"
- Develop a plan to place pedestrian crossings every 1/5th mile in transit-dependent areas with a population density above 10,000 people per mile
- When implementing new safety infrastructure and engineering improvements that will take more than 12 months to complete, implement near-term, incremental improvements that enhance safety in the interim, and
- Submit a report to the General Assembly on staffing as it relates to delays in implementing pedestrian safety improvements, including information on how many signalized crosswalks have been approved for construction and the timeframe for their completion.

Roadway fatalities are 100% preventable. No one should lose their life from choosing to walk or bike in Maryland. In order to prevent injury and death, we must create environments that are designed with safety as the first priority. This legislation supports the SHA to build the necessary infrastructure to keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 70.

<sup>1</sup> data retrieved from <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/crashdata/>