

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 337 – Vehicle Laws – Bike Lanes and Shoulders – Yielding Right-of-Way (Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 337 as a tool in changing driver behavior and protecting vulnerable road users.

House Bill 337 seeks to increase penalties for motorists responsible for seriously injuring or killing anyone lawfully riding, walking, or rolling in either a dedicated bicycle lane or a marked shoulder.

MDOT's top priority is safety and any life lost on our roadways is one too many. As such, MDOT considers the safety of all users when implementing enforcement strategies supported by the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) and the Safe System Approach. As Maryland works towards eliminating traffic-related serious injuries and deaths, MDOT is applying a data driven approach to shape the strategies and metrics that guide our safety programs. MDOT's programs are designed to help Maryland prioritize efforts to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Resources like the NRSS, 2050 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, MVA's Strategic Highway safety Plan (SHSP), and MHSO's Crash Data Dashboard provide a clear vision for the State to equitably prioritize needs and improve the safety of all lawful roadway users in Maryland.

House Bill 337 is a way to recognize and honor the life of Ms. Langenkamp while also affirming the State's commitment to ensuring safe and responsible activity on our roadways.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 337 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090