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MAYOR

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**HB0111**

February 1, 2024

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 111 – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 111.

HB 111 allows the use of bicycles and similar vehicles on sidewalks unless forbidden in local ordinance. This language affirms the right of more vulnerable road users to a safe riding experience while also prioritizing the comfort and safety of pedestrians.

Maryland is home to many communities lacking safe and reliable access to safe transportation alternatives. Our transportation corridors are lacking in terms of high-quality, dedicated bike and e-scooter infrastructure. Changing Maryland's existing stance regarding the riding of bikes on sidewalks from "prohibited" to "allowed" will expand access and send a clear message that our transportation corridors should accommodate all users. Though a long-term goal of local governments, including Baltimore City, is the installation and construction of safe bicycle infrastructure, we believe this is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 111.