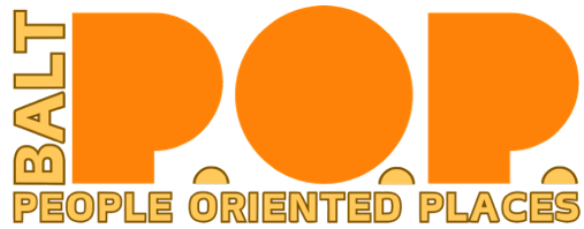


Bill: SB0970

Bill Title: Howard County - Department of Planning and Zoning - Parking Space Requirements for New Construction Ho. Co. 13-25



Position: **Favorable with Amendments**

Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

As a group which believes that excessive automobile parking lots are a very wasteful and unproductive use of valuable land and make our communities pedestrian-hostile, we support SB0970.

The term transit-oriented development (TOD) has become familiar to many/all of us. When a development is located near enough to public transit that people can conveniently access it via transit instead of by automobile, that development can orient itself toward that transit. This frequently takes the form of fewer parking spaces than a similar automobile-oriented development.

It makes sense to extend this concept to other modes of transportation, including walking and cycling. However, as eager as we are to promote walkability and discourage automobile parking, there are limits to the ability of walking, by itself, to replace the utility of an automobile. Without a transit endpoint, you simply cannot cover similar distances - or haul similar loads. Cycling, on the other hand, is another matter.

We would like to see the bill modified to expand beyond its current focus on walking to include cycling. The consideration allowed by the bill should include whether infrastructure for **cyclists** could offset the need for the construction of any parking spaces. A person on a bike, especially on an e-bike, and **very** especially on a cargo e-bike, can travel considerable distances and haul a considerable amount of cargo. When provided the proper infrastructure, such a bicycle can fully substitute for an automobile to fulfill most daily needs.

While the bill's consideration for walking infrastructure certainly isn't harmful, we feel that expanding the consideration to include cycling infrastructure will make it much more effective.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to **vote in favor of SB0970, with our suggested amendments**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

[BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places](#)