

February 11, 2025

Maryland House of Delegates  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **HB 628 – Favorable**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Committee Members,

I am a resident of District 22 in Prince George’s County. I volunteer with several organizations working to make Maryland streets safer, including Bike Maryland and Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail. I strongly support **HB 628**. I urge the committee to report **favorable** on the bill.

HB 628 prioritizes building and reconstructing sidewalks and bicycle pathways that are, or along streets that are, subject to a Complete Streets Policy or a Vision Zero Policy.

This bill is consistent with, and supports, the Maryland Department of Transportation’s (MDOT’s) recently updated Complete Streets Policy, the State’s policy to design and build streets that are safe for all road users, regardless of their mode of travel.<sup>i</sup> It also supports Maryland’s commitment to Vision Zero, a goal to eliminate crashes that result in serious injury or death.<sup>ii</sup>

Designing and building sidewalks and bike paths along state roads is consistent with MDOT’s mission and commitment to promote a safe transportation system that supports all types of users, including people walking, biking, and rolling. In recent strategic plans, MDOT has noted the need to update its policies related to bike lanes and sidewalks; and, MDOT has been undertaking those updates. This bill will support that work.

[Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan \(Dec. 2023\)](#)<sup>iii</sup>, [MDOT’s The Playbook \(i.e., the 2050 Maryland Transportation Plan\) \(Jan. 2024\)](#),<sup>iv</sup> and MDOT’s [2050 Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan \(Jan. 2024\)](#)<sup>v</sup> all note the need to update SHA policies around active transportation (*i.e.*, walking and biking). The plans also note the need, and set goals, to enhance safety, serve communities, and support the economy, by increasing active transportation, including filling gaps in active transportation networks (*i.e.*, building more sidewalks and bike paths).

Again, HB 628 prioritizes constructing and reconstructing sidewalks and bicycle pathways where they are needed most, and supports MDOT’s Complete Streets Policy and Vision Zero.

I strongly **support HB 628** and urge the committee to report **favorable** on the bill.

Thank you,

Dan Behrend  
Riverdale Park, MD  
Prince George’s County

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<sup>i</sup>MDOT Policy Manual – MDOT 750 Complete Streets

[https://policymanual.mdot.maryland.gov/mediawiki/index.php?title=MDOT\\_750\\_Complete\\_Streets](https://policymanual.mdot.maryland.gov/mediawiki/index.php?title=MDOT_750_Complete_Streets)

<sup>ii</sup> “Maryland Transportation Secretary Wiedefeld Charts Course Toward Goal of Zero Highway Deaths”

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/newsroomdetails.aspx?newsId=692&PageId=38>

<sup>iii</sup> See page 14 (“MDOT will ramp up investments and policies to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians routinely and safely on our extensive road network by retrofitting streets with bike lanes, sidewalks, and traffic calming measures.”). Available at:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Pages/Maryland's-Climate-Pollution-Reduction-Plan.aspx>

<sup>iv</sup> See e.g., pages 35 & 38. Available at: <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=22>

<sup>v</sup> See page 47 [https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MDOT\\_State\\_Bike\\_Ped\\_Master\\_Plan\\_FULL\\_FINAL\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MDOT_State_Bike_Ped_Master_Plan_FULL_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)