



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE**

**HB 628 Highways - Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways - Construction and  
Reconstruction**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Linda Kohn, LWVMD President**

**Date: February 13, 2025**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) agrees that HB 628 should be made law to create another leg to support Vision Zero and the safety of all. LWVMD supports achieving and maintaining working relationships among entities responsible for transportation and decreasing the use of single occupancy motorized vehicles is evident. This bill clearly promotes incentives of alternative methods (walking and biking) of transportation other than motorized vehicles.

History of the construction of pathways and sidewalks shows that in well-defined urban entities there are options for travel without a motorized vehicle, but for most urban highways a motorized vehicle is required. The lack of sidewalks and pathways either during construction or reconstruction of highways mandates the use of motorized vehicles. This bill requires the State Highway Administration to prioritize funding for construction and reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways to areas that are adjacent to highways that are subject to a complete streets policy or a Vision Zero Program.

LWVMD is very concerned about the health and safety of all residents. This health and safety concern is both through pollution of the air through exhaust and tire wear that motorized vehicles provide as well as being hit by walking or biking along a designated highway with no alternative to avoid motorized traffic.

HB 628 provides assurances and safety for residents and **LWVMD urges a favorable report on HB 628.**