



# CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

## **Support House Bill 628 – Highways - Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways - Construction and Reconstruction**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 13, 2025**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 628, which will ensure that pedestrians and cyclists are safer along urban highways in municipalities.

The City of Takoma Park is home to several stretches of urban highways maintained by the State Highway Administration (SHA); for example, MD-650 (New Hampshire Avenue) and MD-410 (Philadelphia Avenue/Ethan Allen Avenue). As major thoroughfares connecting Washington DC to Maryland, these highways have a high number of vehicles as well as pedestrians and cyclists. HB 628 ensures that the SHA provides vital sidewalk and bike lane infrastructure along these roads.

Making sure all residents can use these roads safely is of utmost importance, but the cost to construct and maintain sidewalks and bike paths on these roads is a significant financial burden, especially for small municipalities. Within the City's boundaries, we pay for the maintenance of all local roads as well as their adjacent sidewalks and bike paths. Moreover, the City pays for modifications necessary to ensure that sidewalks along state roads comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The State should take responsibility for the design, construction, and maintenance costs of sidewalk and bike paths along state roads.

HB 628 supports the City's Vision Zero goal to create a safer community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. This is why the City of Takoma Park supports HB 628 and urges a favorable committee vote.