



January 28, 2025

House Environment and Transportation Committee
250-251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

SUPPORT: HB0178 - Vehicle Laws - Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or Bicycle Path - Prohibition

Bikemore, Baltimore City's livable streets advocacy organization representing more than 8,000 advocates and the 30% of Baltimoreans who lack access to a car, is writing in support of HB0178.

In Baltimore City, it is already illegal to stop, stand, or park in a bike lane or bicycle path. This makes sense - bicycle lanes and bicycle paths are lanes of traffic, and should be enforced with prohibitions from obstructing traffic just as a general lane of motor vehicle traffic, a sidewalk, an intersection, or a crosswalk is treated.

Yet statewide in Maryland, the prohibition for bike lanes and paths is the only one that does not exist. This needs to be fixed to better protect vulnerable road users from motor vehicle traffic.

There are some cases where vehicle entry into a bicycle lane or path is necessary. Exceptions already exist in Maryland code for these necessities: emergency vehicle access, law enforcement instruction, direction from a traffic control device, and disabled vehicles.

Other uses like passenger pickup and drop-off and truck loading and unloading are not necessary uses. They are in fact dangerous ones that are a significant cause of injury and death of bicycle facility users. That's why these uses are already prohibited in other locations where vulnerable road users exist: crosswalks, sidewalks, and intersections.

In these cases, design solutions are needed, and they exist. Loading zones, mid-block ADA ramps, flex zones, and other curbspace management treatments are the appropriate design solutions, and treatments that we should see incorporated in projects across the state with MDOT's new Complete Streets Policy. We must lead with safety, and design around inconvenience.

We urge the committee to support HB0178, bringing Maryland in line with Baltimore City, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Executive Director