



Support HB422 Bicycle Safety Start

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
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House Environment & Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

February 4, 2025

RE: SUPPORT HB422 Bicyclist Start on Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of District 30, president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (“BikeAAA”), Chair of the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission, Member of the 2017 Maryland Bicycle Safety Task Force and avid Maryland cyclist for over 20 years. On behalf of BikeAAA and its more than 1,000 members, we support HB422.

Intersections are the most dangerous place for people riding bikes with a large fraction of crashes with vehicles occurring there. More and more jurisdictions are utilizing Leading Pedestrian Intervals to allow pedestrians and others to cross an intersection with a head-start before the vehicular traffic gets a green light. This allows pedestrians, people with assistive devices and others to safely cross.

Bicyclists should be able to proceed on a LPI because it significantly improves their safety at intersections by giving them a head start before turning vehicles enter, making them more visible to drivers and reducing the risk of collisions, especially considering their vulnerability as a smaller, slower mode of transport compared to cars and trucks. It allows cyclists to enter the intersection when there is less traffic, providing a safer crossing time and reducing congestion for vehicles.

The key benefits include:

Increased visibility:

When cyclists enter the intersection first, drivers are more likely to see them and yield, lowering the chance of a crash.

Reduced conflict with turning vehicles:

By allowing cyclists to proceed before turning cars, potential conflict points at intersections are minimized.

Improved mobility:

Giving cyclists a head start on the green light can reduce their travel time and delays at intersections.

Encourages cycling:

Making intersections safer for cyclists by providing an LPI can encourage more people to bike, promoting active transportation

Reduce congestion::

Allowing cyclists to clear the intersections helps reduce congestion for both drivers and cyclists.

Please support HB422 to improve safety at intersections and reduce traffic congestion, especially for people who travel by bike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Korin', written in a cursive style.

Jon Korin
President, Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County