



Transportation Alliance

January 30, 2025

**Testimony on HB 178 –
Vehicle Laws – Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or Bicycle Path –
Prohibition
Environment & Transportation Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports HB 178, which would prohibit a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in a bike lane or path. As advocates for a safe transportation system, the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance strongly believes this bill will improve safety for all road users while also making biking an easier and more attractive transportation option for Marylanders.

In Baltimore City, it is already prohibited to stop, stand, or park in a bike lane or bicycle path. This common-sense approach ensures that these spaces are treated just like any other road space that is protected from obstructions, such as motor vehicle lanes, sidewalks, intersections, and crosswalks.

Of course there are legitimate instances, such as emergency vehicles or disabled vehicles, where access to bike lanes or paths is necessary, and those exemptions should remain in place. However, non-essential uses—such as passenger pickup and drop-off or truck loading/unloading—are both unnecessary and dangerous when they occur in bike lanes and paths. In fact, such behavior is already prohibited in other protected spaces like crosswalks, sidewalks, and intersections. Bike lanes should be no different.

Maryland is already taking steps to improve safety, and we commend the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for its commitment to the Complete Streets Policy. We believe that this legislation supports those ongoing efforts, and that Maryland can take a critical step toward safer and more equitable transportation for all. By aligning our state laws with those already in place in Baltimore City, we can provide consistent protection for cyclists, reduce conflicts between cyclists and motor vehicles, and create safer, more efficient streets for everyone.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for House Bill 178.