



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 628 – Highways – Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways – Construction and
Reconstruction
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Adam Van Grack. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Rockville's testimony on HB 628. We thank Delegate Healey for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 628, which prioritizes funding for sidewalk construction and reconstruction on State roadways that are included in a complete streets policy or a local Vision Zero Plan and are not within areas that are both Priority Funding Areas and Sustainable Communities. HB 628 closely aligns with the goals of Rockville's Vision Zero program, which strives to eliminate all pedestrian, bicycle, rolling, and traffic crash related deaths.

It is essential that our residents are provided with safe and accessible sidewalks on State roads, especially in cities like Rockville that have an extensive transportation network. This is a matter of life and death for those who walk, bike, roll, and use transit. The legislation focuses on the most critical issues by prioritizing sidewalks identified as high injury network corridors, which are prone to serious injury and fatal crashes. Rockville will benefit from this legislation as we have two key sections of heavily traveled State roads that are covered under the bill:

- Sidewalk on MD 28 west of Rockville Town Center.
- Sidewalk on MD 355 at the north end of the King Farm neighborhood to College Parkway.

HB 628 takes a strategic and thoughtful approach to the construction and reconstruction of sidewalks on State roads. By prioritizing sidewalks included in complete streets or Vision Zero plans, HB 628 provides enhanced safety protections and access for those who walk, bike, roll, and use transit. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 628 with a favorable report.