



January 30, 2025

**Testimony on HB 7 –
Vehicle Laws – Bicycles – Operations at Intersections
Environment & Transportation Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports HB 7, which would permit bicyclists to treat a stop sign as a yield sign if no drivers or pedestrians are approaching the intersection with the right-of-way. 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.

Research into stop-as-yield laws, including the well-established "Idaho Stop" law, has demonstrated that such measures enhance road safety and make intersection interactions between cyclists and drivers smoother and more predictable. A recent study conducted by researchers at Oregon State University used a driving simulator to test how cyclists treating stop signs as yields interacted with drivers at intersections. The results were overwhelmingly positive: the study found no unsafe behavior from cyclists and no significant difficulties for drivers in sharing the road.

In addition to laboratory studies, real world experience from the 11 states that already have stop-as-yield laws demonstrate actual safety improvements. For example, Delaware has found that the introduction of a stop-as-yield law led to a 23% decrease in conflicts between cyclists and cars at intersections. This is significant evidence that such laws improve safety for all road users by encouraging more predictable and efficient behavior at intersections.

While the concept is counterintuitive, stop-as-yield for bicyclists is a commonsense policy that will not only improve safety for cyclists but also benefit drivers by reducing conflict at intersections and allowing for smoother traffic flow. The evidence from numerous studies and other states' experience supports the idea that treating stop signs as yield signs for cyclists is a reasonable, safe, and effective measure.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for House Bill 7.