

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 422 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Crosswalks

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 422 as an important step toward making bicycling safer throughout the State of Maryland.

HB 422 amends the Transportation Article to permit a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle or unicycle facing a red signal to enter an intersection to cross the highway in the direction of a pedestrian control “walk” signal while remaining in their legal travel lane in the roadway or bicycle facility. The bill also requires that said person yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian lawfully using the intersection before entering the intersection in the manner identified above.

Across Maryland, the State Highway Administration and local jurisdictions are increasingly making use of strategies such as Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) and all-pedestrian signal phases in order to improve safety for vulnerable users. The Federal Highway Administration has found that LPIs reduce pedestrian crashes by as much as 13 percent at intersections where they are deployed.

This legislation clarifies that bicycles, play vehicles, and unicycles may make use of such treatments. In doing so, this legislation allows such road users to get physical separation from motor vehicles. This separation reduces conflicts at intersections and improves safety and visibility for drivers and bicyclists alike.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 422 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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