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MAYOR

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SB627

February 13, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 627 – Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 627.

SB 627 allows cyclists on Maryland roads to yield at certain stop signs, “rolling through” the intersection at a reasonable speed without fully stopping provided that it is safe to do so. Cyclists must still yield the right-of-way to vehicles in the intersection and vehicles near enough the intersection to pose an immediate danger. This practice is also known as an “Idaho Stop” or “Stop-As-Yield.” Allowing cyclists to roll through stop signs unimpeded when practicable saves time and effort, improving the appeal and accessibility of bicycling.

Enacting Stop-As-Yield legislation would expand the rights of cyclists by legalizing the common practice of rolling through stop signs. Repeated starting and stopping can take a toll on a cyclist's comfort and energy level. This creates a worse riding experience that disincentives riding while causing some to avoid routes with many stop signs. As such, many cyclists presently roll through stop signs when and where it is practical to do so. By legalizing this behavior, HB 7 sets a realistic, predictable standard for the way bike riders are to behave at intersections. Cycling is a cheap, clean, quiet, and safe mode of transport with a small roadway footprint and negligible impacts on their surroundings. Holding bicycle riders to this more realistic standard would promote this sustainable mode while reducing uncertainty in how cyclists and motorists behave at intersections.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 627.