



SB 392: Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

January 29, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Transportation safety is a paramount mobility concern. SB 392, allowing bikes on sidewalks as the default state-wide would make bicycling a safer, more accessible transportation option. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members, supports the bill.

Biking in traffic with cars, trucks, and buses can be dangerous and discouraging for bicyclists, yet Maryland law 21-1103 prohibits people, including children, from riding bikes, (and similar devices like e-bikes and scooters) on sidewalks unless the local jurisdiction expressly permits it by ordinance. Montgomery, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties have had ordinances to allow bikes on sidewalks for some time and have experienced no significant issues. It's time to make this simple and sensible provision uniform across the state by enacting SB 392.

Maryland has committed to Vision Zero, a goal of zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2030. Municipalities, counties, and the state are building out networks of safer options for biking, via bike lanes and multi-use trails, while working to make streets safer for all users. Allowing bicycling on sidewalks is part of this important in-progress work.

Allowing bicycling on sidewalks also advances transportation equity. Many individuals do not have access to personal vehicles and rely on bikes for trips to work, school, get groceries, and to other points of interest, but live and travel in areas that lack safe bikeways.

Making bikes on sidewalks the default, via SB 392, will help Maryland meet our transportation safety and equity and Vision Zero pledges.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association urges a favorable SB 392 committee report and Senate floor vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Peter Gray
peter@waba.org