



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1567 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs –
Overtaking and Passing (Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to provide support with amendments comments on HB 1567. We thank Delegate Odom for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council support HB 1567, which aligns with Rockville’s Vision Zero program. The legislation would require an operator of a bicycle, a motor scooter, or an Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD) to exercise due care to avoid a collision with another vehicle or a pedestrian and maintain, if practicable, a safe distance of at least 3 feet when passing a vehicle or pedestrian. It would also require an operator of a bicycle or a motor scooter to give an audible warning by voice or device before passing a pedestrian. As the use of EPAMDs, including Segways, power wheelchairs, and mobility scooters, increases, statewide policy is needed to ensure safety for all users of local public infrastructure.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- It would support safer passing behavior on shared-use paths and local streets.
- It would reduce unanticipated encounters with pedestrians through mandatory audible warnings.
- The bill would create predictable expectations for all micromobility operators across Maryland and enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

However, some of Rockville’s infrastructure does not provide a three-foot distance for passing a vehicle or a pedestrian. As a result, we request an amendment to provide an exception in such instances. This amendment would provide flexibility for Rockville and other local governments with similar infrastructure limitations.

HB 1567 takes an important step forward by strengthening basic safety expectations for everyone using our roads and trails. By requiring a safe passing distance, clear audible warnings, and due-care obligations, the bill offers enhanced protections that help prevent collisions and make daily travel safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and EPAMD users. These improvements move the state closer to a transportation system that supports safe and secure travel options for all. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 1567 with a favorable report.