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March 12, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Information – HB 1567 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs – Overtaking and Passing (Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1567 (HB 1567) and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1567 would require that individuals riding a bicycle, motor scooter, or an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) give an audible warning before passing a pedestrian and pass at least three feet from the pedestrian, if practicable.

MDOT agrees that care must be taken by and for all roadway users when traveling. However, the bill establishes a legal requirement that may conflict with existing roadway geometry and State law. Generally, on-street striped bicycle lanes are five feet wide with little buffer to the curb. Additionally, Maryland law requires drivers to maintain a minimum distance of three feet when passing bicyclists on the road. Without corresponding design changes or clear guidance on lane positioning and overtaking maneuvers for all vehicles, enforcement may be inconsistent or impractical. Therefore, people on bicycles, EPAMDs and motorists may not be able to obey their respective passing requirements under this legislation due to the width of facilities.

Under HB 1567, enforcement could also be challenging because language in the bill requiring that bicycles, EPAMDs, and motorists maintain distance from pedestrians, "if practicable," and to give an "audible warning" when passing are subjective. Officers would be required to closely observe the incident in order to cite an offense by the individual on the bicycle or EPAMD.

MDOT has available educational opportunities for people biking or driving on how to exercise caution while passing others, including the law for motor vehicle drivers to give three feet of space while passing people on bicycles or EPAMDs. To improve safety for all roadway users, MDOT is leading a Micromobility Safety Group through the MVA's Highway Safety Office Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area Team. The group will advise a multidisciplinary approach to safety education for people on bikes, motor scooters, and EPAMDs, making our roads safer for all users. This educational effort will help achieve the intended purpose of HB 1567.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberation of HB 1567.

Respectfully submitted,

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