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To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to give a favorable report to HB1381.

We note with approval that this bill's provisions do not apply to transit vehicles and vehicles picking up or dropping off passengers with disabilities. This is language that we requested and support, since it prevents people with disabilities from having to cross a bicycle lane in order to access transportation. While bicycles are perceived to be less dangerous than cars, they are quieter and harder for blind pedestrians to hear as they approach, and pedestrians with disabilities are likely to have trouble getting out of the way of or may actually collide with an approaching cyclist, potentially causing serious injury to both parties.

For this reason, we ask for a favorable report on HB1381. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.