

## **Please Support House Bill 1504 Highways - Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways - Construction and Reconstruction**

April 1, 2026

To:

Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Honorable Senator Antonio Hayes , Vice Chair  
Finance Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

From:

Mindy Badin  
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Olney, MD 20832  
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Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1504, which supports the construction and reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways across Maryland.

I lost my son Brett six years ago as he was crossing the street to meet some friends for dinner. I have been advocating for safer streets on the county and state level since that time.



In 2025 in Maryland, 106 pedestrians and bicyclists lost their lives on our roadways. This number has decreased considerably since 2023, but more work needs to be done to protect vulnerable road users.

House Bill 1504 will prioritize funding for sidewalks and bicycle paths on roads subject to Complete Streets or Vision Zero policies. A modern transportation system includes safe, accessible infrastructure for people who walk, bike, or roll. Pedestrians and bicyclists are among the most vulnerable road users, and improving infrastructure is one of the most effective ways to reduce injuries and fatalities while expanding mobility options.

I have a daughter who lives in Bend, Oregon. Long before I became an advocate for pedestrian safety, I was impressed at how that city protects vulnerable road users. Bend has adopted a transportation strategy that prioritizes safe routes for walking and biking throughout the city. Bend experienced a marked increase in bicycle and pedestrian traffic after improvements were made, demonstrating that when safe infrastructure is available, more people choose to walk or bike.

Prioritizing sidewalks and bicycle pathways during roadway construction and reconstruction projects will be more cost effective than performing a later retrofit. Safe sidewalks and bicycle pathways are fundamental public infrastructure, and Maryland can ensure that transportation investments work for everyone. House Bill 1504 will help create safer, more connected communities across Maryland.

I urge this committee to submit a favorable report for HB1504. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin