
April 1, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 1504 – Highways – Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways – Construction and Reconstruction (The Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026)

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1504 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 1504 requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to prioritize funding for the construction and reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways that are, or are adjacent to, highways that are subject to a Complete Streets policy or a similar Vision Zero program. The bill also requires local governments, when submitting requests for sidewalk or bicycle pathways construction or reconstruction projects to the SHA, to make the requests in annual priority letters for MDOT’s consideration for inclusion in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

The MDOT Complete Streets Initiative prioritizes safety for all road users and creates a balanced and sustainable transportation system for Maryland residents. Through the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP), a part of the Complete Streets Initiative, the SHA is implementing meaningful context driven planning and design work to transform our State’s most dangerous segments and make them safer for all road users. The improvements along these PSAP segments focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

As amended, HB 1504 is in alignment with SHA’s PSAP and Complete Streets Initiative. SHA’s process for prioritizing sidewalk construction focuses on segments on roadway identified in PSAP corridors as high risk. SHA has advanced planning and design work on all 23 high priority corridors identified in the PSAP. SHA also recently published the updated Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment that identified additional high-risk corridors across the State. Given the limited financial resources available, SHA takes a data-driven and safety-focused approach to prioritizing improvements for vulnerable road users across the highway system. SHA will continue to leverage this approach as locations where the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks are identified as a significant infrastructure need.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation appreciates the sponsor's collaboration on House Bill 1504 and respectfully requests that the Committee issue the bill a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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