

# **Healey Sponsor Testimony - HB 1504 - Senate.pdf**

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Position: FAV

ANNE HEALEY  
Legislative District 22  
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Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Chair  
Local Government and  
Bi-County Agencies Subcommittee



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**Testimony in Support of HB 1504 – Highways – Sidewalks and  
Bicycle Pathways – Construction and Reconstruction  
Finance Committee  
April 1, 2026**

Good Afternoon Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the Finance Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Anne Healey, seeking a favorable report on HB 1504 - Highways - Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways - Construction and Reconstruction.

HB 1504 prioritizes funding for the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways adjacent to highways that are subject to a Complete Streets policy or similar Vision Zero program.

This bill passed unanimously out of both chambers last session.

The legislation simply prioritizes funding for sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure along highways where Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies already apply. I worked with the SHA to address their concerns, and the bill is presented as amended.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1504.

# **P HB1504 Sidewalks and Bike Pathways - Favorable.p**

Uploaded by: Mindy Badin

Position: FAV

## **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  
4212 Charley Forest Street  
Olney, MD 20832  
minbadoo1@yahoo.com

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

# **HB1504 - LOS - SHA - Highways - Sidewalks and Bicy**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

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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.

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
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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,

April Moeller  
Director of Government Affairs  
State Highway Administration  
410-210-5780

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090

**HB1504\_ AARP\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

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**HB 1504 – The Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**April 1, 2026**  
**FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of AARP Maryland, we ask that you accept this favorable testimony in support of House Bill 1504, the Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026.

AARP is deeply committed to advancing livable communities, places that are safe, accessible, and welcoming for people of all ages. Central to this commitment is ensuring that residents can travel safely, whether they walk, use mobility aids, bike, drive, or rely on public transportation. HB 1504 aligns squarely with these values by strengthening Maryland’s approach to sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure and prioritizing investments that improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

As Maryland’s population ages, safe and accessible walking environments become increasingly important. Sidewalks and connected pedestrian networks are critical to helping older adults remain independent, engaged, and physically active. They also reduce social isolation, improve public health outcomes, and support local economies. HB 1504 recognizes these benefits by requiring the State Highway Administration to prioritize funding for sidewalks and bicycle pathways in areas subject to Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies.

We also appreciate the bill’s emphasis on public engagement and protection of existing pedestrian routes. Community input and continuity of safe walking paths are essential to building infrastructure that truly serves residents.

For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1504. We thank Delegate Healey and the bill’s sponsors for their leadership on pedestrian safety and their commitment to making Maryland communities safer and more livable for people of all ages.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.

