
January 20, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 155 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Crosswalks

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 155 as an important step toward making bicycling safer throughout the State of Maryland.

SB 155 amends the Transportation Article to permit a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle or unicycle facing a red signal to enter an intersection to cross the highway in the direction of a pedestrian control “walk” signal. The bill requires that said person yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian lawfully using the intersection before entering the intersection in the manner identified above.

Across Maryland, the State Highway Administration and local jurisdictions are increasingly making use of strategies such as Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) in order to improve safety for vulnerable users, giving pedestrians an extra three to seven seconds to enter the intersection before any vehicles. The Federal Highway Administration has found that LPIs reduce pedestrian crashes by as much as 13 percent at intersections where they are deployed.

This legislation clarifies that bicycles, play vehicles, and unicycles may make use of such safety treatments. In doing so, this legislation allows such road users to gain momentum and physical separation from motor vehicles, thereby increasing their visibility to drivers. This separation reduces conflicts at intersections and improves safety for drivers and bicyclists alike.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 155 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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