
March 13, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: House Bill 70 - Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023

Dear Chair Barve:

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) appreciates and supports the intent of House Bill 70 and thanks the bill sponsor, Delegate Charkoudian, for her commitment to protecting vulnerable users. The priorities outlined in House Bill 70 are in line with SHA's goals to implement context guide design elements and work to achieve "Vision Zero." The SHA is committed to implementing several of the priorities prescribed in the bill as outlined below.

The SHA will implement context guide design elements in all capital projects; this includes resurfacing projects, signal projects, safety and spot improvement projects, as well as minor and major reconstruction projects.

The SHA will also provide information to the General Assembly on personnel as prescribed in the bill. This data will include information on staff positions dedicated to the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements and the use of contractor resources for pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Finally, SHA will provide the number of approved signalized crosswalks on State roadways, including pedestrian hybrid beacons, as well as the construction schedule.

The SHA looks forward to continuing to work with Delegate Charkoudian and the Committee to achieve Vision Zero and make Maryland roads safer for all users. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tim Smith
Administrator

cc: The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland House of Delegates

