



SB 943: Vehicle Laws - Bus Lane Obstruction - Monitoring Systems Expansion and
Workgroup (Better Bus Service Act of 2024)
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

April 2, 2024

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Committee Members,

Transit provides green and equitable mobility. It helps people get to school, work, and around their communities and is key to reducing road congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and vehicle miles traveled. Let's take steps to boost its speed, operating efficiency, and convenience.

SB 943, by prohibiting unallowed stopping and parking in a dedicated bus lane and allowing automated enforcement of bus lane use, stopping, and parking violations, is a step toward better transit. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members, supports this bill.

Noting WABA's focus, **we particularly ask you to retain the provision that "a person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle in a bike lane,"** as well as the similar "bus stop zone" prohibition.

SB 943's provisions would extend to dedicated bus lanes in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, where WABA is active, and would be similar to bus-lane enforcement provisions recently enacted in the District of Columbia, where we are also active and have observed a need for the type of enforcement that would be allowed by SB 943.

In our jurisdictions and throughout the state, bicyclists may use dedicated bus lanes, hence WABA's special attention to this bill. We encourage bicyclists to ride in bus lanes when safe, in particular when the speed limit is 25 MPH or less and bus frequency is moderate. A look at curb-space regulations and management and at enforcement strategy and education and privacy concerns is in order, therefore WABA supports SB 943's establishment of a Workgroup on Curb Space Management.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association urges a Favorable SB 943 committee report and asks this bill be voted out of committee quickly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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