

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 70

(Delegate Charkoudian)

Environment and Transportation and  
Appropriations

Judicial Proceedings

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**Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023**

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This bill requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to implement all possible incremental and near-term safety improvements as soon as practicable when a new approved pedestrian or bicycle safety construction or improvement project is projected to take more than 12 months to complete. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Because MDOT’s capital program is fully subscribed, MDOT may be required to redirect funding from other projects beginning as early as FY 2023 to implement the incremental and near-term safety improvements; however, any such impact is anticipated to be minimal due to the limited scope of projects to which the requirement applies. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Highway Administration is a modal unit within MDOT, and it is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound/noise barriers in the State. It also has responsibility for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 16 (Senators Waldstreicher and Augustine) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2023  
km/lgc Third Reader - March 23, 2023  
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