



**Transportation
Alliance**



Bikemore

March 11, 2021

**Testimony on HB 226 –
Baltimore City – Complete Streets Program Funding –
Environment & Transportation**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support HB 226.

In Maryland pedestrians and bicyclists remain the most vulnerable people on the roadways. In 2018 even though traffic fatalities were down overall, pedestrian deaths were up 14 percent. In Maryland the vast majority of pedestrian fatalities occur in urban areas.

One way to make the roads safer for pedestrians and bicyclists is to enforce safe driving laws. Another is to design and operate streets to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists. The latter approach, known as complete streets, requires redesigning streets that have been designed to optimize vehicular throughput, often at the expense of safe access for all users.

HB 226 establishes a clear nexus between fines for unsafe driving practices (such as running red lights or driving cars and trucks in lanes designated for other types of use) and funding the design and implementation of complete streets. As Maryland Department of Transportation officials have said, “all transportation fatalities are preventable.” HB 226 provides an opportunity to make roadways in one of Maryland’s most urban areas safer.

We encourage a favorable report.