

Testimony in Support of HB 226: Baltimore City – Complete Streets Program Funding – Traffic and Vehicle Monitoring Systems

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Daniel Richman

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My name is Dan Richman. I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, legislative District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 226, Complete Streets Program funding from monitoring system revenues.

I was relieved that Baltimore adopted a Complete Streets ordinance a few years ago. I walk to work on Fayette or Orleans in East Baltimore, and it is challenging and scary because these streets and even the smaller ones that branch off them are car-centric to a ridiculous extreme.

This is true all over neighborhoods that are dense with homes, businesses, and restaurants. Neighborhoods around me in East Baltimore and all over Baltimore lose economic and cultural activity like stores, restaurants, and gathering space because the city and state are prioritizing the ability to drive cars through them or park in them rather than getting people around more efficiently than private cars and securing the space for economic and cultural activity.

To start fixing these problems the Complete Streets initiative needs more funding. Having fines from various types of traffic monitoring systems flow into projects that will help pedestrians and other non-car users of streets seems like a just way to use those fees.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB 226.