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**HB 73 Baltimore City - Complete Streets and Safe Routes to Schools - Funding
House Environment and Transportation Committee
SUPPORT
March 10, 2022**

Good afternoon Chairman Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Jim Campbell, state president of AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland has over 897,000 members in Maryland and its members overwhelmingly support HB 73 Baltimore City - Complete Streets Program Funding and Safe Routes to School Program. We thank Delegate Robbyn Lewis for sponsoring this bill.

HB 73 establishes the Baltimore City Complete Streets Program and Safe Routes to School Funding Program, administered by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. Any fines collected by a speed monitoring system, a school bus monitoring camera, or a vehicle height monitoring system shall be used to fund the Complete Streets Program Fund or the Safe Routes to School Program when applicable. The fund may be used only to advance the purpose and goals of the Complete Streets Program within Baltimore City. Expenditures from the fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.

AARP especially likes that the bill addresses the issue of equity where it requires Complete Streets” policies to benefit” all users equitably, particularly the most underinvested and underserved communities. We also like this bill because it requires a funding stream for Complete Streets Projects.

Streets are a vital part of livable, attractive communities. Everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, ought to have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars or creeping traffic jams.

AARP seeks to improve older adults’ quality of life by promoting the development of safe, accessible and vibrant environments often called livable communities. Livable communities’ policies address issues such as land use, housing, access to fresh and available food, transportation and broadband — all of which facilitate aging in place.

Older adults need transportation to places and services that support their independence and healthy living. Policies that encourage adequate, safe and accessible transportation infrastructure and services help people of all ages stay active and engaged in their communities.

For these reason AARP supports HB 73 and respectfully requests a Favorable Report from the Committee. For questions please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org.

