



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 880  
Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2022  
FAVORABLE**

March 9, 2022

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 880. Strong Future Maryland works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders. We ask you to support this legislation as a matter of public safety.

We can all agree that one pedestrian fatality is too many, but [139 pedestrian and cyclist deaths](#), as Maryland suffered in 2019, is unconscionable. If passed, Senate Bill 0880 requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to adopt new plans and practices for safety measures and determine appropriations for infrastructure preservation and congestion relief in an effort to reduce pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and prioritize accessibility. The bill ensures that in any MDOT- or SHA-directed project, there must be intentional design elements meant to accommodate foot and bicycle traffic.

While we know we cannot eliminate all risks that come with our roads and transit systems, there are simple, common-sense crash reduction countermeasures that can and should be prioritized and implemented statewide. Informed by the data collected by the State Highway Administration, local authorities can work to repair and replace traffic lights, reduce speed limits, make sure pedestrian signals are accessible to all, modify pedestrian walk interval times, or add crosswalks and lighting to make areas more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.

Maryland has the potential to be a leader on combating climate change, and that begins with making sure our transit systems are becoming less dependent on cars and, instead, more walkable and bikeable. Ensuring that people feel safe sharing the road should be a priority as we reimagine what sustainable transportation looks like in the 21st century.

Rebuilding faith in state and local government begins with common sense measures like those included in Senate Bill 0880. Maryland must do more for public safety and accessible roads — in the name of sustainability, for the health of our communities, and for the future of our families. This committee can make a commitment to that work by ensuring the transportation decisions made by our state government are centered on safety, data-driven, and put people first.

For all of these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 880.

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