



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 73

March 29, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 73 - Baltimore City – Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Programs – Funding

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 73.

HB 73 would require Baltimore City to spend revenues generated by traffic control, vehicle speed, school bus monitoring, and vehicle height monitoring camera systems on Safe Routes to Schools, public safety, or transportation purposes that are consistent with the State and local complete streets programs. The City would be permitted to first recoup the cost of installing and administering the camera systems. Importantly, it carves out the I-83 speed cameras which were authorized by the General Assembly in 2021 under strict considerations that the revenue generated goes towards I-83 improvements.

In 2018, Baltimore City passed one of the most thorough and forward-looking complete streets ordinances in the country. All transportation projects undertaken by the City must be evaluated through a complete streets lens and consider use by all types of road users – public transit, pedestrians, bicycles, and other transportation modes as well as cars. The BCA is in the process of completing the City’s Complete Streets Manual, which is set to be released in the Spring.

The BCA plans to invest millions into public education and public safety initiatives. This bill advances our goals of building a world-class complete streets transportation network in Baltimore City while preserving our financial flexibility to meet required and pressing needs.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 73.