

## **SAFE Roads Act of 2023 (HB70) SHA Pedestrian & Bike Safety Improvements**

This bill aims to reduce the number of serious injuries caused by bike- and pedestrian-involved crashes, make progress towards Maryland's goal of zero vehicle-related deaths by 2030<sup>1</sup>, and promote alternative modes of transportation—primarily biking and walking—especially in more densely populated areas.

### **Background:**

No one should lose their life because they walk or bike on Maryland's roadways. Roadway fatalities are 100% preventable. However the number of traffic-related pedestrian deaths in Maryland is growing higher year by year. In 2021 alone, 131 Marylanders lost their lives while attempting to cross our streets and there were an additional 2,548 pedestrian-involved crashes that caused injury or property damage.<sup>2</sup>

Making streets safer also helps address climate change. If people feel safe walking, biking, and taking other modes of public transit, they will be less likely to rely on their private vehicles powered by fossil fuels.

### **Solution:**

This bill requires the Maryland State Highway Administration to:

1. Analyze and plan for implementing context-driven safe pedestrian crossings and varied signal types in SHA-defined "Suburban Activity Centers" and "Traditional Town Centers."
2. Develop a plan to place pedestrian crossings every 1/5th mile in transit-dependent areas with a population density above 10,000 people per mile.
3. When implementing new safety infrastructure and engineering improvements that will take more than 12 months to complete, implement near-term, incremental improvements that will enhance safety in the interim.
4. Submit a report to the General Assembly on staffing as it relates to delays in implementing pedestrian safety improvements, including information on how many signalized crosswalks have been approved for construction and the timeframe for their completion.

**For more information please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://zerodeathsmd.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021\\_2025\\_MD\\_SHSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://zerodeathsmd.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021_2025_MD_SHSP_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/crashdata/>