

## **SAFE Roads Act of 2022** **SHA Pedestrian & Bike Safety Improvements**

**Roadway fatalities are 100% preventable.** No one should lose their life from choosing to walk or bike on Maryland's roadways. However, in Maryland, the number of traffic-related pedestrian deaths is growing higher year by year.

In 2020, although there were fewer cars on the road due to Covid-19 restrictions, pedestrian and cyclist deaths continued to climb. Last year alone, 130 Marylanders lost their lives while attempting to cross our streets and there were an additional 3,022 pedestrian-involved crashes which caused injury or property damage.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, the safety of our streets is a paramount issue in regards to addressing climate change. There is no way to move towards greater public use of alternative modes of transportation and decreasing reliance on fossil fuel powered private vehicles without making our streets safer for pedestrians.

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>2</sup>, and promote alternative modes of transportation, primarily biking and walking.

### **This bill requires the SHA to:**

1. Conduct an analysis of high pedestrian and bike injury corridors/ intersections and publish the results by July 2023
  - ⇒ Analysis will focus on engineering improvements
  - ⇒ Budget and timeline for these improvements shall be included
  - ⇒ SHA will implement these improvements as determined by the timeline
2. Increase annual spending levels in budget areas involving pedestrian and bicycle safety
3. Review outstanding and upcoming preservation and maintenance projects for opportunities to implement Context Driven Design Elements and FHA Proven Safety Countermeasures
4. When implementing new safe infrastructure and engineering improvements that will take more than 12 months to complete, implement near-term, incremental improvements which enhance safety in the interim.

### **For more information please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-bicyclist-safety/>

<sup>2</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)