

SENATE BILL 16

R2

(PRE-FILED)

3lr0505
CF HB 70

By: **Senators Waldstreicher and Augustine**

Requested: October 5, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation to recommend and
4 implement certain design elements for pedestrian and bicycle safety when
5 developing certain projects; requiring the State Highway Administration to submit
6 certain reports including pedestrian and bicycle safety data, analyses, and plans to
7 the General Assembly by certain dates; and generally relating to pedestrian and
8 bicycle safety.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 2–103.1(c–1) and 2–609
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 2–103.1.

18 **(C–1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN DEVELOPING ANY CONSTRUCTION OR**
19 **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, OR POSTCONSTRUCTION PROJECT, PRESERVATION, OR**
20 **MAINTENANCE, SHALL RECOMMEND AND IMPLEMENT CONTEXT-DRIVEN DESIGN**
21 **ELEMENTS FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY CONSISTENT WITH:**

22 **(I) THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL**
23 **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROVEN SAFETY COUNTERMEASURES; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**(II) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'S CONTEXT
DRIVEN GUIDE AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES.**

**(2) IF A NEW CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IS
PROJECTED TO TAKE MORE THAN 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, THE DEPARTMENT
SHALL IMPLEMENT ALL POSSIBLE INCREMENTAL, NEAR-TERM SAFETY
IMPROVEMENTS IMMEDIATELY WHILE MAINTAINING EACH PROJECT'S PRIORITY
RANKING.**

2-609.

**(A) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2023, THE STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A REPORT THAT INCLUDES:**

**(1) THE NUMBER OF OPEN STAFF POSITIONS IN THE STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION BY TITLE AND DEPARTMENT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE
OPEN POSITIONS SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING PEDESTRIAN AND
BICYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ONCE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN
IDENTIFIED;**

**(2) INFORMATION ABOUT EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORM DIRECT LABOR
ON PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE HIGHWAY SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR
THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:**

(I) WAGE, BENEFIT, AND COMPENSATION LEVELS;

(II) OPEN POSITIONS BY TITLE AND DEPARTMENT;

(III) TURNOVER RATES; AND

**(IV) AN EXAMINATION OF HOW TURNOVER RATES AND OPEN
POSITIONS AFFECT HOW QUICKLY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED;
AND**

**(3) THE NUMBER OF NEW SIGNALIZED CROSSWALKS THAT HAVE
BEEN APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION, THE TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION, AND THE
CAUSE OF ANY DELAYS IN DEPLOYMENT FOR:**

(I) FULLY SIGNALIZED CROSSWALKS;

(II) PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACONS; AND

1 **(III) ANY OTHER SIGNAL TYPES.**

2 **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, THE STATE HIGHWAY**
3 **ADMINISTRATION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE**
4 **WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A REPORT THAT INCLUDES:**

5 **(1) A FULL ANALYSIS OF ALL STATE HIGHWAYS LOCATED IN**
6 **SUBURBAN ACTIVITY CENTERS OR TRADITIONAL TOWN CENTERS, AS DEFINED BY**
7 **THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION’S CONTEXT ZONES GUIDE; AND**

8 **(2) AN INSTALLATION PLAN AND TIMELINE NECESSARY TO**
9 **ESTABLISH SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS ON ALL STATE HIGHWAYS:**

10 **(I) USING ALL SIGNAL TYPES, INCLUDING FULL SIGNALS,**
11 **PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACONS, AND ANY OTHER SIGNALS; AND**

12 **(II) AT A MINIMUM OF ONE-FIFTH MILE INTERVALS WITHIN OR**
13 **ADJACENT TO CENSUS TRACTS WITH SIGNIFICANT TRANSIT DEPENDENCY AND A**
14 **POPULATION DENSITY ALONG THE HIGHWAY EXCEEDING 10,000 PEOPLE PER MILE.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
16 Assembly that the Maryland Department of Transportation maximize applications for and
17 access to federal funding that is or may become available for infrastructure for pedestrian
18 and bicycle safety.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
20 1, 2023.