

# HOUSE BILL 70

R2

(PRE-FILED)

3lr0421  
CF SB 16

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By: **Delegate Charkoudian**

Requested: September 19, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

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## 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**

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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 WITH A FULL**  
5 **ANALYSIS OF AND PLAN FOR ALL STATE HIGHWAYS LOCATED IN SUBURBAN**  
6 **ACTIVITY CENTERS OR TRADITIONAL TOWN CENTERS, AS DEFINED BY THE STATE**  
7 **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION’S CONTEXT ZONES GUIDE, THAT:**

8                   **(1) INCLUDES AN INSTALLATION PLAN AND TIMELINE REQUIRED TO**  
9 **ESTABLISH SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS ON THESE STATE HIGHWAYS;**

10                  **(2) USES ALL SIGNAL TYPES IN THE PLANNING OF ROAD CROSSINGS,**  
11 **INCLUDING FULL SIGNALS, PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACONS, AND ANY OTHER**  
12 **SIGNALS; AND**

13                  **(3) PLACES PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT A MINIMUM OF**  
14 **ONE-FIFTH-MILE INTERVALS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO CENSUS TRACTS WITH**  
15 **SIGNIFICANT TRANSIT DEPENDENCY AND A POPULATION DENSITY ALONG THE**  
16 **HIGHWAY THAT EXCEEDS 10,000 PEOPLE PER MILE.**

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

21           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
22 1, 2023.