



# 2025 Legislative Agenda

Peter Gray, Chair Bike Maryland Board  
Alison Gillespie, Executive Secretary Bike Maryland Board

[Bike Maryland](#) is a 100% volunteer-driven nonprofit organization, formed in 1999.



Our mission is to promote bicycling, increase safety, improve conditions, and provide a voice for bicyclists in Maryland.

We work with partnering advocacy organizations, state and local government, universities, businesses and communities to make bicycling a safe form of transportation and a fun recreational opportunity for all.

Become a member!

<https://www.bikemaryland.org/support/join/become-a-member/>

Volunteer!

<https://www.bikemaryland.org/support/volunteer/>

# Prior to the 2025 Legislative Session

- Set Priorities in December 2024 - What bills to back
- Meet with Potential Sponsors
- Sent Budget letter to Governor and MDOT Secretary

We've also sent letters regarding the need for bike/ped facilities on the new/future Key Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge designs



# Tonight's agenda

Peter will first review our legislative priorities

Alison will then briefly discuss some advocacy basics



# Key dates for 2025 Legislative Session [\(link\)](#)

<b>January 8</b>	Session opens.
<b>January 15</b>	Deadline for Governor to introduce budget bills.
<b>January 17</b>	Deadline to request a bill to guarantee a committee hearing.
<b>February 3</b>	Senate bill introduction deadline. Senate Rules Committee may consider late bills.
<b>February 5</b>	Governor delivers State of the State address.
<b>February 7</b>	House bill introduction deadline. House Rules Committee may consider late bills.
<b>February 11</b>	Bike Maryland Symposium in Annapolis.
<b>March 17</b>	Crossover Day – A bill must pass out of one chamber to guarantee a hearing in the other chamber.
<b>March 31</b>	Deadline to pass budget out of both chambers.
<b>April 7</b>	General Assembly adjourns at midnight (aka “Sine Die”).



# Bike Symposium



# Bike Symposium – please register and attend



Tuesday, February 11 at City Hall in Annapolis

- Network with other bike advocates from around the state
- Learn about advocacy issues from experts
- Visit your own electeds (we will be scheduling in person appointments for attendees that day)

Space is limited – you must register ahead of time!

<https://www.bikemaryland.org/events/2025-bike-maryland-symposium/>

# Sponsors we'd like to thank:

[Central Maryland Transportation Alliance](#)

[Velo City Riders Cycling Club](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts](#)

[Bike HoCo](#)

[Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club](#)

[Western Maryland Wheelmen](#)

Jarrett Stoltzfus

Wayne Clark

[Celsius Drinks](#)





# Advocacy does not end after the Symposium, or even after the legislative session is over

- Talk to your delegates and senators year round about biking issues
- Invite them to meet with you... or even ride bikes together!
- Give them some reasons why safe biking and access to trails matters to you.
- You can also track bills on your own and submit written testimony
- Check out Bike Maryland's "how-to" on this topic



# Bike Maryland Priority Bills for 2025

- Bikes on Sidewalks
- Bicycle Safety Yield
- Transportation and Climate Alignment Act
- Vulnerable Road User Enhanced Safety Bill



# Bikes on Sidewalks - HB0375/SB0392

- Sponsored in 2025 by Delegate Dana Jones and Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
- Makes legally riding bikes on sidewalks the default in all of Maryland
- Currently, biking is allowed on sidewalks only if the local county/city passes a law legalizing biking on sidewalks
- Seeks to avoid disproportionate policing impacts for people of color riding safely on sidewalks
- In 2024 HB0111 passed the House 134-2. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee did not vote on the bill.
- Senate (JPR) hearing January 31
- House (ENT) hearing February 6



# Bicycle Safety Yield - HB0007

- Sponsored in 2024 by Senator Will Smith and Delegates Regina Boyce and Vaughan Stewart
- Allows bikes to treat stop signs as yield signs
- Makes biking through intersections safer by making cyclists more visible to cars
- 11 other States and DC now have such laws
- The law would follow guidance by [the National Highway Traffic Administration](#) endorsing such current state laws adopting this policy
- In 2024 HB0511 passed the House 119-13. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee did not vote on the bill.
- House (ENT) hearing January 30





# Transportation and Climate Alignment

## HB0084/SB0395

- Sponsored in 2025 by Delegate Mark Edelson and Senator Shelley Hettleman
- Would require MDOT and regional planning agencies to measure and mitigate any increases in climate pollution and Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) caused by planned highway expansion projects costing over \$10m.
- Mitigation actions could include expanding access to mass transit, building protected bike infrastructure, expanding remote work options or locating jobs and amenities near residential housing.
- In 2024 HB0836 passed the House 101-37. The bill passed out of the Senate Finance Committee, passed a 2nd reading in the Senate, but did not receive a 3rd reading vote before the end of session.



# Vulnerable Road User Enhanced Safety - HB 234/SB 385

- Patterned on Sarah Debbink Langenkamp bill that passed last year
- Also similar to laws relating to crashes in crosswalks and involving highway workers
- Would allow for adding up to two months incarceration if car driver injures/kills a vulnerable road user in any road context





## Other Bills of Interest

- **No Stopping, Standing or Parking in a Bike Lane - HB 178/SB 133**
  - Sponsored by Del Guyton and Sen Muse
  - Hearing Senate (JPR) January 22, House (ENT) January 30
- **Bicyclist Safety Start - HB 422**
  - Sponsored by Del Palakovitch Carr
  - Allows bicyclists to begin moving where there is a leading pedestrian interval
  - Hearing House (ENT) February 6
- **Graduated Speed Camera Fines - HB 182/SB 113**
  - Sponsored by Del. Stewart and Sen. Waldstreicher
  - Fines increase as the amount over the speed limit increases
  - Supported by MDOT
  - These flexible fines already in place for workzone infractions
- **Contributory Negligence Carve Out - HB 594**
  - Sponsored by Delegates Embry, Boyce, Feldmark, Kaufman, Lewis, Palakovitch Carr etc..

# We Oppose

## EBike Registration, Titling and Insurance Mandates - SB 14

- Requirements treat Ebikes like automobiles
- Would be a significant disincentive to ebike ownership
- Anything that makes it harder to own a bike reduces number of bikes on the road and thus makes it less safe to ride
- Senate (JPR) hearing held January 22





# Some Advocacy Basics for in-person meetings

- Build relationships with your 3 delegates and senator.
- Speak from personal experience and be authentic! Paint a picture that your electeds can remember... and maybe re-use in their own speeches, etc
- Take notes at meetings, and photos. Politicians love selfies. Post to your socials and tag them.
- After you talk: follow up with a friendly thank you.
- If a bill passes, be sure to follow up again.
- After session is over, circle back on the bills again if you can



# Should you testify? Or send in written testimony?

- On the state level, testifying can be... A PROCESS
- Sending in testimony is subject to some rather arcane rules and procedures
- Although sometimes helpful, personal persuasion and relationship building is often more effective with state-level bills
- Testimony should be short, and feature why the bill is good for the state and its citizens
- Conversations with your delegates and senator should highlight why bikes/safer roads are good for your district.



# Making Your Way thru the Process:

- Use MyMGA website that allows you to track any bill for which you have a number
- [Create a MyMGA Account](#)
- Links to our priority bills
  - [Bikes On Sidewalks](#)
  - [Bicycle Safety Yield](#)
  - [Transportation and Climate Alignment](#)
  - [Vulnerable Road User Enhanced Safety](#)
- For a deep dive on this, watch our webinar from last year, available on YouTube “2024 Basics of Legislative Advocacy in Maryland”



# Questions?

[www.bikemaryland.org](http://www.bikemaryland.org)

