



Support HB214 Safe Passing of Cyclists

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
P.O. Box 208, Arnold, MD 21012 www.bikeaaa.org

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

February 11, 2016

RE: SUPPORT House Bill 214

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of District 33, president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County ("BikeAAA"), Chair of the recently appointed Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission and an avid Maryland cyclist for over 20 years. On behalf of BikeAAA and its more than 500 members, I support House Bill 214. This bill strengthens the current 3 foot passing law by eliminating the exception for narrow roads which sadly applies in the vast majority of places where it is needed most. The current law works as an under-pinning for 3-Foot promotion campaigns by the SHA and others. But unfortunately, it has little applicability or enforceability in most road situations. HB214 improves safety by reducing crashes and promoting bicycling for both transportation and recreation in six important ways:

1. **Requires a safe 3 foot pass in all circumstances vs. allowing an exception in the riskiest situations.**
2. **Reduces the likelihood of a crash by requiring passing at *reasonable and prudent speed***
3. **In the unfortunate event of a crash, *reasonable and prudent speed* reduces the severity of injury**
4. **Reduces "close passes" on narrow roads which are legal under the current law. Close passes increase perceived risk which deters cycling**
5. **Makes the law enforceable by eliminating ambiguity – was the road wide enough to legally pass?**
6. **By improving both the actual and perceived safety of cyclists, it encourages more people to ride bicycles. Studies show that greater numbers of cyclists improves safety for all road users as they become a common part of the road use experience.....a virtuous cycle.**

Safe bicycling promotes health, reduces traffic, improves the environment and stimulates economic growth. We urge your support for passage of HB214.

Sincerely,

Jon Korin

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