A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee

FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee; specifying its composition and the appointment of its members; providing for officers, meetings, and rules of the Committee; setting forth the Committee’s duties and responsibilities; providing for reports of the Committee; and generally relating to the Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

BY adding

Sections 3-3-2201 to 3-3-2206
Article 3 - Administration
Title 3- Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations
Subtitle 22 - Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Baltimore County Code 2003

WHEREAS, with the adoption in 2006 of the Eastern Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan and the drafting of a similar plan for the western part of the County, Baltimore County has begun the process of establishing a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle program; and
WHEREAS, the goal of this program is to rebalance the significance and role of streets and roads within the County’s communities so that they serve the needs of all transportation users - motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and other users - in a manner that is sensitive and appropriate to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate purpose of this effort is to ensure that each time a County road is built or modified or reconstructed, quality service is provided for all transportation modes and all types of users; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide support and oversight for the development of this comprehensive program, the County Council deems it appropriate to create an advisory committee composed of citizens and stakeholder representatives to work with County agencies in this effort; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Sections 3-3-2201 to 3-3-2206 be and they are hereby added to Article 3 - Administration, Title 3- Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations, Subtitle 22 - Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, of the Baltimore County Code 2003 to read as follows:

SUBTITLE 22. BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

§3-3-2201. ESTABLISHED.
THERE IS A BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

§3-3-2202. MEMBERSHIP.
(A) COMPOSITION; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.
(1) THE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF 11 MEMBERS.
(2) OF THE 10 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

(I) EACH MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER; AND

(II) THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A BICYCLE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION ACTIVE IN THE COUNTY.

(3) THE DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS, HEALTH, RECREATION AND PARKS, AND EDUCATION, AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SHALL EACH DESIGNATE TO THE COMMITTEE AN EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(B) TENURE; VACANCIES.

(1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 3 YEARS.

(2) IF A VACANCY OCCURS ON THE COMMITTEE, THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL MAKE THE APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE VACANCY.

(C) SUBCOMMITTEES.

THE COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL, MAY APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES TO ADDRESS AND ADVISE UPON PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ISSUES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

§ 3-3-2203. OFFICERS.

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL DESIGNATE A VOTING MEMBER TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.
§ 3-3-2204. MEETINGS; QUORUM; RULES.

(A) MEETINGS. THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRMAN AS FREQUENTLY AS REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES, BUT NO LESS THAN 4 TIMES PER YEAR.

(B) QUORUM.

(1) A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.

(2) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE BY A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AT ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY ACTION.

(C) RULES. THE COMMITTEE MAY ADOPT A SET OF RULES TO GOVERN ITS MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES.

§ 3-3-2205. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(1) ADOPT A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY TO ESTABLISH GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES TO BE CONSIDERED IN TRANSPORTATION, PARKS, SCHOOLS, AND OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS AND LAND USE PLANNING, WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON AREAS INSIDE THE URBAN RURAL DEMARCATION LINE, SO AS TO INCREASE SAFETY BY ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN LAWS, AND TO ENCOURAGE WALKING, BICYCLING AND TRANSIT USE WHILE PROMOTING SAFE OPERATIONS FOR ALL USERS.

(2) DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS FOR WALKING, BICYCLING, AND TRANSIT TO USE IN THE EVALUATION OF PROJECTS AND SITE
PLAN APPROVALS BY COUNTY AGENCIES. SUCH PROTOCOLS SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ENSURE THAT SIGN-OFF FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE REVIEW CHECKLIST FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT, WIDENING AND RESURFACING PROJECTS.

(3) RECOMMEND A METHOD TO MODIFY THE PROCESS FOR CREATING COMMUNITY PLANS TO INCLUDE A “SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION” ELEMENT AS A STANDARD SECTION, COVERING WALKING, BICYCLING, AND TRANSIT.

(4) PREPARE AND MAINTAIN A “SIX-YEAR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PLAN PROGRAM” TO COINCIDE WITH THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SIX-YEAR/ANNUAL UPDATE CYCLE IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCORPORATE IMPROVEMENTS INTO CIP PROJECTS WHERE FEASIBLE.

INCORPORATE LOW-COST IMPROVEMENTS INTO CIP PROJECTS WHERE FEASIBLE AND AFFORDABLE.

(5) RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY CODE AND THE ZONING REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLISTS, AND ALL USERS OF COUNTY STREETS AND ROADS.

(6) DEVELOP A POLICY REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF BICYCLE PARKING AT MAJOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, PARKS, RECREATION CENTERS, LIBRARIES, SENIOR CENTERS, COMMUNITY CENTERS AND HEALTH FACILITIES, FOR BOTH VISITORS AND EMPLOYEES.

(7) RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO INCORPORATE NEW STANDARDS FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION THAT WILL RESPECT AND ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF ALL USERS, NOT ONLY MOTORISTS, WITHOUT IMPOSING UNREALISTIC FINANCIAL BURDENS ON COUNTY
TAXPAYERS.

(8) INVESTIGATE THE AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE COMMITTEE’S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TO FINANCE LOW-COST IMPROVEMENTS FOR STREET WIDENING AND RESURFACING PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS.

§ 3-3-2206. REPORTS.

(A) ANNUAL REPORT. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT. THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL CONTAIN:

(1) A SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE’S ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR; AND

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE COMMITTEE’S CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTERS SET FORTH IN SECTION 3-3-2205.

(C) THE COMMITTEE MAY SUBMIT ADDITIONAL REPORTS PERIODICALLY AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 45 days after its enactment.