



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Chairman**

**Derrick Leon Davis**

Council Member, District 6

MAR 28 2017

The Hon. Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation  
Low House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

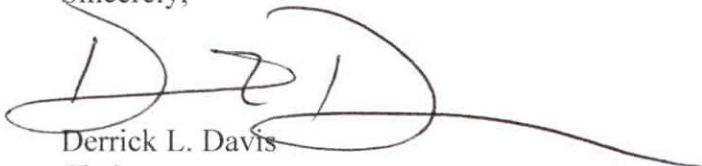
Re: **Bill Position** – SB 338/HB 578 – Vehicle Laws – Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons –  
**SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

Dear Senator Zirkin & Delegate Barve:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on HB 578 – Vehicle Laws – Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, which is before you this 2017 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 28, 2017. The enclosed statement reflects our position as the bill is currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to Maryland citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3426. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,



Derrick L. Davis  
Chair

Enclosure

cc:

Hon. Roger Manno, District 19  
Hon. Benjamin F. Kramer, District 19  
Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

**County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

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# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**(SB 338/HB 578)**  
Senator Manno  
Delegate Kramer

Vehicle Laws – Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT AS AMENDED

HB 578 – Vehicle Laws – Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons would allow a local jurisdiction or the State Highway Administration to install a pedestrian hybrid beacon that would operate in accordance with the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The bill would also establish rules that would assist with the implementation of the control signals by showing word signals such as “walk,” “don’t walk,” or “wait,” in addition to the “walking person” or “upraised hand” symbols.

This legislation would help remedy many pedestrian safety issues and support a “complete streets” approach to transportation and design, which keeps in mind pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Research suggests that pedestrian hybrid beacons (also known as High-Intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWKs)) may reduce pedestrian crashes by up to 69 percent and help reduce fatalities near transit stops.<sup>1</sup> In addition, motorists may benefit from the HAWKs by reducing delays at pedestrian crossings by up to 50 percent. Reportedly, most pedestrian fatalities occur at mid-block crossings or on multi-lane roadways at locations where there are no signals. It has also been noted that pedestrian fatalities tend to occur more frequently in urbanized areas.<sup>2</sup>

In 2015, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that pedestrian fatalities in Prince George’s County occurred at a rate of 2.20 per 100,000 persons. We all have a role to play in improving traffic safety, and we recognize that this legislation may help us get there. As we continue development throughout the County, we must keep the “complete streets” concept in mind to ensure the safety of our residents. The Prince George’s County Council avidly supports any legislation that would improve pedestrians’, cyclists’, and motorists’ safety. We see no reason to delay or avoid enacting a law that would clearly serve to benefit and protect human life.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Highway Administration. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide– Recommendations and Case Study:  
[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped\\_bike/tools\\_solve/fhwasa14014/fhwasa14014.pdf](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/fhwasa14014/fhwasa14014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Prince George’s County Health Department. Pedestrian Death Rate:  
<http://www.pghealthzone.org/index.php?module=indicators&controller=index&action=view&indicatorId=339&localeId=12>

**Page 2**

**Prince George's County Council  
SB 338/HB 578 – SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

Therefore, the Prince George's County Council is pleased to offer its **SUPPORT** for HB 578 **as it is currently amended**. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our position.

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Prepared by: Tia L. Holmes  
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC  
Jennifer A. Jenkins  
On behalf of Prince George's County Council