



House Bill 82

Transportation - Complete Streets - Access to Healthy Food

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 7, 2019

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 82. This bill would strengthen the existing Complete Streets Grant Program to encourage local governments to adopt more broad-based considerations when implementing new local roadways.

“Complete Streets” is a multi-faceted approach to roadway design and development, where non-vehicle traffic, conduits, and stormwater infrastructure are all meaningfully integrated. Maryland created a Complete Streets Program through 2018 legislation to offer grants to local jurisdictions seeking to develop and implement such policies for their own locally-managed roadways. This centralized system was an effective means to develop in-house expertise and guidance for local jurisdictions, and to offer the incentives to help overcome potential administrative hurdles to seeing these productive policies adopted locally.

HB 82 would ensure that the program receives resources to back up that promise, through a modest \$1 million annual appropriation from transportation funds. It further clarifies that the elements of such a Complete Streets program could include access to healthy foods, as yet another community challenge where well-designed roadways may serve as a remedy.

HB 82 would sensibly expand the scope of a beneficial local incentive program, and ensure that in future budget years, it receives resources to carry out its intended work. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS HB 82 and urges a favorable report.**