

## **Testimony regarding Bill 28-25 Prohibiting Stopping, Standing, or Parking of Vehicles in Bikeways**

September 30, 2025

Chair Stewart and Council Members:

My name is Larry Soler. I grew up in Silver Spring, graduated from Springbrook High School, and now reside in Bethesda.

I am testifying in strong support of Bill 28-25, establishing a prohibition on stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles in bikeways. I want to recognize the bill's sponsor, Councilmember Glass, and cosponsors Luedtke, Friedson, and Fani-González.

I want to share a brief story. I was able to attend the kick-off press event for this legislation in North Bethesda a few months ago. While cycling home from the event on bike lanes, I encountered a large commercial vehicle that was parked in the lanes and blocked its entire width from the curb to the plastic bollards. This was near an intersection with the 270 Spur, which is an area that requires extra care.

As an experienced bike rider, I was able to maneuver into a busy lane of traffic, take the lane, and then merge back in front of the parked vehicle on the bike lanes. This is very challenging for the bulk of bike riders, who aren't as experienced in sharing lanes with fast-moving cars. An additional challenge is that cars

are not prepared for this sort of maneuver since they assume if there are bike lanes, bikes won't be in traffic.

Blocked bike lanes are not an unusual occurrence. It happens nearly every other time I ride in Montgomery County bike lanes.

My neighborhood is home to the families of two boys -- Jacob Cassell and Enzo Alvarenga -- who were riding their bikes on sidewalks next to a busy road and killed by vehicles in two separate incidents. Following their deaths, bike lanes were installed. According to a State Highway Administration report that compared crashes before and after the bike lanes were installed, five pedestrians and one individual riding a bike were injured and one person on a bike was killed in the months before the lanes. In the months after the lanes were installed, there were no pedestrian or bike injuries.

Members of the Council, this legislation is an urgently needed way to enforce common sense -- bike lanes are not parking lots. I encourage you to support it.