



## **TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **HB 535 Transportation – Complete Streets Program - Establishment**

**Position: Support**

**By: Elaine Apter & Richard Willson, Co-presidents**

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports HB 535 Transportation – Complete Streets Program – Establishment. This bill clearly and transparently delineates requirements for the program of Complete Streets, the local governments' responsibilities, methods of eligibility, and workgroup composition. The goal of Complete Streets, to accommodate multiple modes of transportation within a public right-of-way in appropriate places, is laudable.

Governments around the state have different policies concerning Complete Streets and stipulations in this bill will add both uniformity to definition and enhance optional compliance with built-in incentives. LWVMD encourages these street policies that favor the environment, improve safety, help to build healthy communities, and provide opportunities of mobility for more residents.

Projects that are brand new are more easily built with Complete Streets, but retrofitting older, eligible projects is encouraged during the planning, design, construction and reconstruction phases. Projects built around the state under this program as the bill proposes have guidelines, yet flexibility for implementation.

The composition of the workgroup is inclusive of construction experts, regional agencies, advocates for various modes of transportation and government officials. This blend of expertise with stipulated provisions of reporting enhance an open governmental system for Maryland.

We look forward to having a program that helps develop Complete Streets in all appropriate areas of the state.

The LWVMD urges a favorable report on HB 535.