



## SUPPORT HB1841 - The Zebra Bill



### The Issue:

- The state of Virginia has multiple crosswalk designs, some of which are proven to have low visibility for drivers and pedestrians.
- VDOT examined effective marking patterns and determined different style crosswalks be placed in certain areas according to traffic flow. (The Virginia Department of Transportation State Pedestrian Policy Plan, July, 2013)
  - In the Commonwealth there is no indication the citizens with low vision are being represented when it comes to crosswalk safety.
- About 178,400 people in Virginia have low vision (National Federation of the Blind, 2016).
- Vision loss is one of top 10 disabilities among those 18+ (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2001).
- The United States Federal Government conducted a study of zebra/continental and transverse crosswalks and concluded that the zebra/Continental are the most visible for drivers (Federal Highway Administration Report, 2010).

### Action:

- All crosswalks in Virginia must be marked in the high visibility Zebra Pattern for pedestrian and driver safety.
- Install detectable warning surface tiles that are “federal yellow” (for dark sidewalks) or “dark red” (for light sidewalks) to be used at all crosswalks throughout the Commonwealth to help citizens who are visually impaired or blind.
- This bill does NOT mandate all crosswalks must be repainted, only those in need of maintenance or installation.

### Current status:

- There are currently 6 styles of crosswalk markings allowed in the state of Virginia.
- Virginia has made sporadic improvement to crosswalks across the state but nothing uniformed to help improve pedestrian safety.

### Other States and Countries

- Localities such as Washington D.C., Richmond, VA, Boston, MA, San Francisco, CA, and Los Angeles, CA have adopted the Zebra Crosswalk.
- Great Britain has adopted the zebra standard for their crosswalk and also included the Detectable Warning tiles for the visually impaired.

Proposed Zebra Crosswalk ⇒

Current Transverse Crosswalk ⇒



(Diorama created by GS Troop 1673)