



Amend HB 13, which prohibits standing, walking, jogging, running, or striding in the road when sidewalks are available, by providing exceptions for special events, obstacles, and hazardous conditions.

Broken, uneven, or overgrown sidewalks create obstacles or tripping hazards that make them unsuitable for pedestrians who jog, run, push strollers, or use walkers or other mobility devices.

- In many jurisdictions, the lack of dedicated funding has caused sidewalks to be neglected for decades.
- In Atlanta, for example, Public Works estimates that 25 percent of the City's sidewalks need to be repaired or replaced.

A similar provision in Code Section 40-6-294 that requires cyclists to ride as near to the right side of the road as practical provides exceptions when "avoiding hazards to safe cycling,"

In Section 40-6-294, "the term 'hazards to safe cycling' includes but is not limited to, surface debris, rough pavement, drain grates which are parallel to the side of the roadway, parked or stopped vehicles, potentially opening car doors, or any other objects which threaten the safety of a person operating a bicycle. "

To provide exceptions for hazards, obstacles, and special events, HB 13 should amend Section 40-6-96 (b) to read:

"Where a sidewalk is provided, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to stand or stride along and upon an adjacent roadway, except when streets are closed to vehicles for detours or special events or when avoiding obstacles or hazards to safe walking or striding. As used in this subsection, the term 'obstacles or hazards to safe walking or striding' includes but is not limited to broken or uneven sidewalks, overgrown vegetation, sidewalk debris, hazardous wires, parked vehicles, construction zones, and any other objects that threaten the safety of pedestrians or create barriers to their access."

