



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

EVAN GLASS
COUNCILMEMBER
AT-LARGE

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;
LEAD FOR HOMELESSNESS AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

February 20, 2020

Hon. Del. Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Position: Support HB0973 or the Pedestrian Safety Act of 2020

Chairman Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and for your continued leadership on issues related to pedestrian safety. From 2008 to 2017, 1,059 Maryland pedestrians died trying to cross the street. There are 1.78 pedestrian deaths per every 100,000 residents in Maryland, making us the 18th most dangerous state for pedestrians. We must and can do better.

Montgomery County and the state of Maryland are still waiting for long-promised safety improvements on our state-controlled highways. For example, I must cross six lanes of traffic to access my bus stop at Colesville Road and Indian Spring Drive—an unsignalized intersection where little to no pedestrian signage exists. Every day, citizens put their lives at risk just trying to cross the street. 71 pedestrians and cyclists have died in Montgomery County since 2015, many more have experienced serious injuries. The time for statewide reform on pedestrian issues is now.

The Pedestrian Safety Act of 2020 is a pivotal measure aimed at funding the pedestrian improvements our constituents are demanding. New revenue generated from increased fines will be put into a Pedestrian Safety Fund financing roadway improvement projects around the state. Corridors with the highest rates of pedestrian injuries and fatalities also have high rates of non-white populations—Veirs Mill Rd Corridor being a prime example. Hispanic and African Americans have a 33% higher traffic fatality rate compared to white residents; improving pedestrian safety is an important equity issue.

As an advocate for pedestrian safety and member of the Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment, I urge the House to pass HB0973 so that lives are not in danger. Montgomery County deserves better. Maryland deserves better. This bill will set us on that path.

Sincerely,

Evan Glass Councilmember
At-Large Montgomery
County Council