



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 16

DATE: January 30, 2023

SPONSOR: Senators Waldstreicher and Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023

Senate Bill 16 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to recommend and implement specific pedestrian and bicycle safety elements when developing any construction or improvement project. If a new project will take more than a year to complete, MDOT must immediately advance all possible near-term safety improvements. Additionally, the bill includes a reporting requirement for the State Highway Administration that relates to pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Montgomery County is one of the first county governments in the country to adopt Vision Zero to eliminate serious and fatal injuries from our roadways by 2030. We are encouraged that the U.S. Department of Transportation pivoted last year from focusing on the actions of individual drivers to advancing roadway engineering design strategies to address roadway safety. This Safe System Approach builds on the goals of both preventing crashes and minimizing the harm caused to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike when crashes do occur, and it should ultimately lead to safer roadways.

Senate Bill 16 will advance the State's commitment to address roadway safety. The bill aligns with Montgomery County's Vision Zero goals, and as such, the County urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report.