



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 963 – Montgomery County - Highways - Maximum Speed Limits MC 1-25
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 25, 2025

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 963, which removes a requirement for a full engineering and traffic investigation before a local authority in Montgomery County can decrease the maximum speed limit on a local road. This is an amendment to the bill that gave the authority to reduce speed limits on local streets to Montgomery County and its local jurisdictions.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County which borders Washington DC. Due to our location and increased traffic flow in the area, many of our municipal streets are used as cut-throughs for drivers attempting to avoid traffic on major roads. This results in an increase in traffic volume and speeding through our residential neighborhoods. We do not have sidewalks on both sides of all the City's streets. Vehicle speed, therefore, is a concern with so many of our residents, especially school children, walking, biking, scooting, and waiting for a school bus on our local streets.

We thank the State Legislature for the original bill allowing municipalities the authority to decrease speed limits on city streets. But our City has found the cost of formal engineering and traffic studies for this simple change to be beyond our city's budget and staff capacity. Our police department is intimately familiar with the locations where speeding is a concern, and where lower speed limits are practical and appropriate. Removing the engineering study requirement would support our city's goals of creating a safer community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports bill House Bill 963 as amended and urges a favorable committee vote.