



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 562

DATE: February 9, 2021

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Montgomery County – Speed Limits – Establishment MC 02–21

House Bill 562 is enabling legislation to allow Montgomery County to decrease the maximum speed limit within its borders to not less than 15 mph on a highway only after performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

Montgomery County is committed to funding Vision Zero projects that prioritize steps necessary to eliminate serious and fatal crashes on its roadways. In a road safety study by the World Health Organization, a clear relationship was reported between vehicle speed and traffic deaths with the rate of pedestrian survivability linked to the speed at which a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle ([World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention](#)). A key element toward creating safer roadways is providing the County with greater flexibility to lower speed limits. A similar “slow streets” initiative was adopted by the District of Columbia in 2020.

Montgomery County supports HB 562 and would urge the Committee adopt a favorable report.