



February 1, 2022

Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
RE: HB 254 (Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022) Support

Dear Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of **Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022 (HB 254)** to reduce and eliminate traffic fatalities.

I am the Founder & Executive Director of the [Vision Zero Network](#), a nonprofit helping communities reach their goals of Vision Zero -- preventing traffic fatalities and severe injuries -- while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. We're proud that more than 45 communities in the U.S. have made Vision Zero commitments in the past 6 years (map [here](#)), and that -- just yesterday! -- the U.S. Department of Transportation set the goal of zero roadway fatalities and shared the new National Roadway Safety Strategy (more [here](#)).

As the new [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) lays out, in order to advance safe mobility for all, it is important that *all* levels of government, and other key partners, adopt and embrace the principles of Vision Zero and the Safe System approach underlying it. Of course, State Departments of Transportation are critical partners in this work.

To this end, I ask for your support the Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022 (HB 254) to reduce and eliminate traffic fatalities

Despite efforts of State Highway Administration traffic engineers, traffic fatalities have been increasing since 2008, particularly for people walking. The situation worsened In 2020, even though there were fewer cars on the road due to Covid-19 restrictions, pedestrian and cyclist deaths continued to climb. Last year, 130 Marylanders lost their lives while attempting to cross the streets and an additional 3,022 pedestrian-involved crashes caused injury or property damage.

One death on Maryland roads is too many, more than 500 traffic deaths year after year is a public health crisis. We hope you will join the momentum to address this *preventable* crisis that endangers everyone on the roads by supporting this live-saving legislation and providing the Maryland State Highway Administration the tools and resources needed to identify, assess, and systematically address traffic safety problems.

(contd)

If we can be of any assistance in your important work to ensure safe mobility for everyone in the state of Maryland, please don't hesitate to reach out. We wish you great success. And thank you for your consideration on this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Leah Shahum
[Vision Zero Network](#)