

February 1, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HB 254, State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities – Infrastructure Review (Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022) (Support)**

**Testimony for February 3, 2022**

**Jane Lyons, Maryland Advocacy Manager**

Thank you, Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and delegates for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading organization in the D.C. region advocating for walkable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities. We are strongly in support of HB 254, the Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022.

HB 254 would require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to conduct an infrastructure review of each pedestrian or bicyclist fatality that occurs on a state highway within six months and to publish the review on its website. The infrastructure review would identify deficiencies and corrective actions to improve roadway safety so that future fatalities may be prevented.

Fatalities on our state roadways are entirely preventable and no one should lose their life due to the state's inability to provide adequately safe infrastructure for walking and biking. Despite this, Maryland has gotten further away from achieving Vision Zero. Last year, 130 Marylanders were killed while crossing state-owned roads. To solve this problem, we will need major changes to our transportation infrastructure, but those changes cannot occur if SHA's bureaucracy does not identify failures and identify solutions to address them.

HB 254 will improve SHA's transparency and accountability to everyone who uses the state's roadways. Residents and family members of the people who are killed while walking or biking deserve to know how future deaths can be prevented through better road design that makes it safer to walk and bike along and across state-owned roads. The Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022 is one small step, but an incredibly important one, towards achieving justice in our transportation system.

Thank you for your consideration.