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SB 520

March 24, 2022

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 520 - Baltimore City - Speed Limits – Establishment and Enforcement

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (HB) 520.

SB 520 authorizes the City of Baltimore to lower speed limits for roads based on the roadway type and industry best practice without requiring a traffic engineering study.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) published the City's first-ever Complete Streets Manual in the spring of 2021. Major components of the City's Complete Streets Manual include the formalization of design standards for promoting safer streets, slower speeds, and increased walkability as well as the establishment of street typologies for classifying City streets and standardizing roadway layout. If SB 520 434 were passed, Baltimore City DOT would use the City's Complete Streets Manual as a guide to identifying corridors ideal for the lowering of speed limits.

Safeguards are included in the legislation that will encourage Baltimore City DOT to utilize the speed limits authority thoughtfully and responsibly. A provision is built into the legislation, allowing the City of Baltimore to return speed limits to previously established levels. Additionally, the legislation would amend state law by prohibiting local jurisdictions from placing speed cameras on roads where speed limits have been reduced without conducting a traffic engineering study.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 520.