

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB0254 Vision Zero Implementation. Last year It was tragic ... and preventable ... that 130 Marylanders lost their lives while attempting to cross our streets. More than 3,000 pedestrian-involved crashes caused injuries or property damage, which is 3,000 too many.

It is essential that you pass the SAFE Roads Act so that pedestrian and bicyclist safety countermeasures will be incorporated into new, preservation, and maintenance construction projects. Required crash analysis will identify high-risk intersections and corridors so that SHA can target gaps in infrastructure and create budget estimates and timelines to implement improvements.

I am a strong proponent of dedicating funding of nearly \$170 million in FY24 with a 10% increase each subsequent year to be included in the MD state budget for fiscal years 2024-2028 to be used specifically by the SHA to address and improve the safety of Maryland's roads for pedestrians and bicyclists, including ADA and bicycle retrofits, sidewalk program, traffic management and safety/spot improvements.

I also agree that we ought to identify pedestrian and bicyclist project planning, implementation, and program management function as a SHA budget line to expedite vulnerable road user safety engineering improvements.

Thank you for moving forward on HB0254 Vision Zero Implementation.

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