



Environment and Transportation Committee
Kumar Barve, Chair
Dana Stein, Vice-Chair

Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 404 - Vehicle Laws - Speed Limits - Establishment

February 10, 2022

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Gray and I represent the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. I am speaking on behalf of the 2000+ WABA members and several thousands of other supporters who live in Maryland.

WABA supports the passage of HB 404 and its enabling of all jurisdictions to lower speed limits on State Highways under certain conditions. Lowering speeds on roads is an essential element of reducing the incidence of crashes and the resultant fatalities and serious injuries stemming from such crashes. Furthermore, lower speeds in turn lessen the severity of injuries due to crashes.

WABA also urges the Committee to consider changes to the language in section (a) (4) (II) prohibiting implementation of new speed monitoring systems, to allow for such automated enforcement. Automated enforcement is proven to be an effective mechanism to get cars to significantly lower their speeds, with the benefits mentioned above.

Overall, allowing local jurisdictions to lower speed limits on State Highways will give those localities an additional tool to reach Vision Zero goals by changing the conditions of the road, and will reduce crashes and the severity of injuries from those crashes.