



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: February 2, 2022
RE: HB0254 Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities – Infrastructure
Review (Vision Implementation Act of 2022)

The MLLC supports HB0254 Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities - Infrastructure Review (Vision Implementation Act of 2022)

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0254.

According to the CDC, the pedestrian death rate increased from 1.7 per 100,000 in 2009 to 2.2 in 2018. This increase was seen in each racial/ethnic group, but is particularly pronounced among Latinos, increasing from 2.4 to 2.9. The 2018 death rate among Latinos, is significantly higher (more than 1 times) than the death rate for whites. Additionally, Vision Zero is in more than 40 communities around the US. Rather than continue to accept the status quo that traffic deaths are inevitable, this project challenges traffic engineers, planners, law enforcement, and others to view traffic deaths as preventable and to plan roads that account for failures in human behavior. In 2021, 543 people died on Maryland roads, including 125 pedestrians and 5 bicyclists. These statistics put Maryland among the worst states in the nation in terms of fatalities of vulnerable road users, yet no bill has been previously introduced.

The bill fixes the described fatality rate by requiring the State Highway Administration to conduct an infrastructure review of each pedestrian or bicyclist fatality that occurs on a State highway (or anywhere related, such as an intersection of a State highway and another highway, or a municipal street). This will result in identifying certain deficiencies, as well as help in identifying appropriate corrective actions; requiring the Administration to complete the review within 6 months and publish the review on its website.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0254. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.