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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 874

TITLE: State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities – Infrastructure Review (Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022)

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstreicher

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 16, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 874 – State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities – Infrastructure Review (Vision Zero Implementation Act 2022). This legislation would require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to conduct an infrastructure review of each pedestrian or bicyclist fatality that occurs on or at an intersection of a State highway.

The safety of all residents and visitors in Maryland is a priority of Baltimore County. This includes the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, as the state has a responsibility to protect their wellbeing while using State highways or connecting roads. Last session, a legislative priority of the County Executive’s imposed stricter penalties on violations that result in the injury or death of vulnerable road users. In order to further protect these individuals, infrastructure reviews of pedestrian or bicyclist fatalities are critical. It is also vital to the community that corrective actions be taken following an infrastructure review in order to prevent further tragedy.

Senate Bill 874 requires the SHA to administer an infrastructure review no later than 6 months after a pedestrian or bicyclist fatality that occurs on a State road. This infrastructure review will identify the deficiencies in engineering and traffic control and operations, as well as implement corrective actions and crash reduction countermeasures. This legislation would further ensure the safety of residents and visitors to the state.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 874. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.