



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

Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 94 - Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities

January 31, 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 1500+ WABA members and several thousands of other supporters who live in Maryland.

WABA supports the passage of HB 94 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.

In my role as co-chair of the Montgomery County Families for Safe Streets, I have helped organize and attend numerous memorials for people killed while walking or biking on State Highways. From those tragic memorials it is clear to me that the conditions of most State Highways are not safe for people walking and biking.

In addition, the most recent traffic fatalities on State Highways in my County have occurred at locations where other vulnerable road users have died in the past few years. In one case, two members of the same family were killed while crossing the same street, mere blocks from one another. It is clear that the speed of cars is a key factor in causing fatalities on our roads.

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. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 94.