



Montgomery County's Advocates for Better Transportation

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February 12, 2024

SUPPORT for the Montgomery County Speed-Limit Reduction Bill of 2024 HB 612/MC 10-24 (Del. L. Charkoudian, D. Moon, and J. Wilkins)

My name is Jake Goodman, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Action Committee for Transit. We strongly support the Montgomery County Speed-Limit Reduction Bill of 2024 and the need for other speed reducing measures countywide. Time and time again, crashes due to speeding in Montgomery County have proven to be fatal. By having a higher maximum speed limit on secondary and even primary roads that are not considered highways or freeways, the likelihood that someone would ignore such suggestions increases, along with the speed of their vehicle. Reducing speed limits can be beneficial to pedestrians who don't have to worry about possibly getting hit by a car speeding near an intersection that doesn't have adequate crosswalks.

One of the key components of the bill is that it would create the mechanism for speed limits to be lowered without the need for a comprehensive traffic study by the county government. In 2023, while the number of traffic and speeding related deaths went down nationwide, in Maryland there were [600 such deaths](#), the highest in roughly 20 years. With that being said, we would encourage speed limit reductions throughout Maryland and to introduce other ways to make wide stroads throughout Montgomery County more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

The need for reducing speed limits does not just apply to suburban or rural secondary roads. It also applies to urban and suburban stroads, where pedestrian speeding related deaths have been equally as prominent. In 2023, Governor Wes Moore got to observe firsthand the problems pedestrians face every day [by walking along Georgia Ave](#) in Wheaton with Montgomery County Councilmember Natali Fani-González. Councilmember Fani-González referred to Georgia Ave as "one of the most dangerous roads in the state." Already [MDOT](#) along with [state](#) and [county officials](#) have taken initiative to lower speed limits in parts of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, but it is not enough. We strongly urge you to vote yes on the [Montgomery County Speed-Limit Reduction Bill of 2024 \(HB 612\)](#).

Sincerely,

Jake M. Goodman,
On behalf of the Action Committee for Transit