

February 5, 2024

Hon. Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building, Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: **Support:** HB 278 - 5 MPH decrease in maximum speed limit

Dear Chair Korman:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading non-profit organization in the D.C. region, including suburban Maryland, advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We wish to express our support for HB 278, which proposes to permit Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to lower the maximum speed limit by 5 MPH on urban state highways without an engineering and traffic investigation.

We believe this is appropriate and important for giving the state another tool to address traffic safety and achieve the state's Vision Zero goals of no traffic deaths.

Lowering speed limits can be a quick action tool to help SHA better respond to traffic safety needs. Given Maryland state roads' continued high level of fatalities and severe injuries, we need to strengthen our response. According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#):

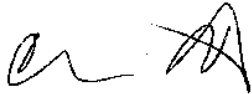
Addressing speed is fundamental to the Safe System Approach to making streets safer, and a growing body of research shows that **speed limit changes alone can lead to measurable declines in speeds and crashes.** [emphasis added]

Posted speed limits, along with clear signage, equitable enforcement, other deterrence measures, and retrofitting and redesigning roadways to lower design speeds, are all tools to ensure safe use of Maryland's public rights of way. This bill supports SHA's "context driven" approach and Vision Zero goals for state roads. Lower speed roadways are fundamental to creating safer conditions for all travelers.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cort
Policy Director