



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support House Bill 612 – Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk
Highways MC 15-24
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 29, 2024**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which removes a requirement for a full engineering and traffic investigation before a local authority in Montgomery County can decrease the maximum speed limit on a local road. This is an amendment to the bill that gave local authorities in Montgomery County authority to reduce speeds on local streets.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County. Many of our municipal streets also function as vehicle cut-throughs in our residential neighborhoods. We do not have sidewalks on both sides of all local streets. Vehicle speed is a concern with so many of our residents, especially school children, walking, biking, scooting, and waiting for a bus on our local streets.

We thank the State Legislature for the original bill allowing municipalities the authority to decrease speed limits on city streets. But our City has found the cost of formal engineering and traffic studies for this simple change on a local street to be beyond our city budget and local staff capacity. Our local police are intimately familiar with the locations where vehicle speeding is a concern, and where lower speed limits are practical and appropriate. Removing this requirement would support our city goals of creating a safer community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports bill HB 612 and urges a favorable committee vote.