



HB 193: Anne Arundel County - Speed Limits - Bike Maryland Favorable

March 7, 2024

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am testifying on behalf of Bike Maryland and the hundreds of members who live and bike in Maryland, and the hundred of Washington Area Bicyclist Association members in Maryland to note our support of HB 193 that will allow Anne Arundel County and the municipalities within to reduce the speed limit to not less than 15 mph.

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 other 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.

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 delegation to recommend passage of HB 193.

Sincerely,

Peter Gray
Bike Maryland, Chairperson Board of Directors