



HB 344 – Transportation – Vision Zero Advisory Commission - Establishment

House Environment & Transportation Committee

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Josh Feldmark

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Position: Support

My name is Joshua Feldmark and I write this as a representative of Bike Maryland. We represent cyclists of all abilities across the state, cyclists who ride 5 miles around the park with their families, for transportation, to a 100 mile ride. Bike Maryland has over 18,000 members from across the state. Additionally, we consistently organize or advocate on behalf of pedestrians and many other non-vehicle transportation users.

First, let me thank this committee profusely for the work you have done over the last several years to protect cyclists and other vulnerable road users. From safe pass to vulnerable road user to complete streets you have been the leaders of pushing Maryland to work towards being the safest for cyclists and pedestrians.

In 2019, with little fanfare, you passed what has the potential to be the most paradigm shifting policy – Vision Zero. As you know, the concept of vision zero is to shift our first priority from getting motor vehicles to their destination as fast as possible to making sure everyone gets to their destination safely.

In 2022, with equally little fanfare, you passed the Vision Zero Implementation Act which was a natural progression for the Vision Zero program in which you had the state begin reviewing specific sites that have frequent crashes to put them through a Vision Zero lens.

This proposal is now the NEXT natural step. While many (myself included) view task forces and commissions with skepticism, in this case it is a vitally important part of the program. Like when the US government began examining auto crashes through a public health lens, this will allow for comprehensive system wide solutions. For cars it was about crumpling steering columns, seat belts, and air bags. Who complete transportation only groups as robust as this proposed commission, are likely to develop the right solutions.

Bike Maryland fully supports HB 344 and urges a favorable report.