ACEC American Council of Engineering Companies Maryland

February 6, 2024

Hon. Marc Korman Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee 251 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 Hon. Regina Boyce Vice-Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee 251 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 278 Urban State Highways - Speed Limits - Exceptions

OPPOSE

Dear Chair Korman:

On behalf of the members of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland (ACEC/MD), I wish to express our reason for opposing HB 278, which we believe is in conflict the with state law on the establishment of speed limits and if enacted may possibly result in traffic hazards.

HB 278 amends Transportation Law Section 21–801.1 to permit State Highway Administration to decrease the maximum speed limit by 5 Miles Per Hour (MPH) on any urban highway, without the *requirement* for an engineering evaluation to determine if the reduction would comply with established standards for traffic safety. Without the proper engineering and traffic study, a change in speed limit should not occur.

Based on the traffic safety concerns, ACEC/MD requests that the House Environment and Transportation Committee oppose HB 278.

Respectfully yours

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Chad Faison Executive Director, ACEC/MD