



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 0612 Montgomery County – Highways – Maximum Speed Limits (MC 10-24)

Position: Supports with amendments

Date: February 29, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) has voted to support this bill with amendments. The Commission respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation committee consider this information and include it in the record.

What this Bill Does. This bill seeks to repeal the requirement that a local authority in Montgomery County perform an engineering and traffic investigation before decreasing the maximum speed limit on a highway.

Restraints on Implementation of New Speed Monitoring System. The Commission supports the intent of this legislation as it would allow the County to expedite reduced speed limits. However, the Commission recommends that Bill be amended to allow for implementation of new speed monitoring systems **one year after the speed limit has been decreased** (adding language to Section 21-803(a)(4)(iii)). This will allow sufficient time for drivers to adjust to the new speed but allow for enforcement that will promote safer roadways, which is the ultimate intent. Without this amendment, it will be difficult to increase safety.

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote in support of HB 0612 with amendments.