



HB0344 –Vision Zero Advisory Commission House Environment & Transportation Committee

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Position: FAVORABLE

Greetings Chair and Members of the Committee

[Frederick Bicycle Coalition](#) represents a broad spectrum of recreational, commuter, mountain and adaptive cyclists. Our mission is to work with government, organizations, and individuals to promote increased and safe access for bicyclists and others in Frederick County. We have over 1,700 followers on Facebook.

The Frederick Bicycle Coalition supports the establishment of a Maryland Vision Zero Advisory Commission, via HB 344, as well as the bill's advisory and reporting provisions, as an important step toward the state's Vision Zero goal of roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.

The General Assembly passed Maryland's Vision Zero law in 2019, and then Governor Larry Hogan signed it into law. The next year, in 2020, Maryland experienced 574 road deaths including 129 pedestrians and 15 bicyclists. We experienced 563 fatalities in 2021, 566 in 2022, and 601 in 2023, including 155 pedestrians and, again, 15 bicyclists.

Maryland is not meeting our state's Vision Zero commitment. We have made no progress.

The commission would include a wide range of officials, experts, and advocates from around the state, to advise the governor and state agencies on Vision Zero implementation and on policies, programs, services, and priorities. It would identify state and local laws, policies, and regulations that hinder progress. These and other provisions are appropriate, and we particularly appreciate HB 344's inclusion of representatives of bicycling and pedestrian advocacy organizations and an organization that advocates for people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Frederick Bicycle Coalition urges a FAVORABLE HB0344 committee report and General Assembly enactment.