



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville HB 344 – Transportation – Vision Zero Advisory Commission – Establishment SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chairman Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I'm Marissa Valeri, Rockville City Councilmember and I thank you for this opportunity. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I want to thank Delegate Palakovich Carr for sponsoring this critically important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 344. This legislation aligns with Rockville's Vision Zero program to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2030, while increasing safe, healthy, and fair mobility for all.

A Vision Zero Advisory Commission composed of transportation, public health, and safety professionals will be a valued asset for Maryland's Vision Zero program. This Commission will be able to provide direct guidance to the Governor and State agencies regarding who to best implement Vision Zero, including identifying roadway safety priorities, identifying laws and policies that obstruct transportation safety, and providing an additional review of the Pedestrian and Bicyclists Fatalities Infrastructure Review reports. This commission will benefit from the insight of its participants as well as having access to statewide sources of information to comprehensively evaluate the state's Vision Zero program progress.

In Rockville, most streets included in our Vision Zero High Injury Network are state roadways and all efforts to advance the state's Vision Zero program also advance our own program.

Similar to the proposed legislation, our Department of Public Works staff provides updates and consults with the Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, and the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee. These groups provide unique insight and recommendations regarding the city's roadway improvements and the lived experience in Rockville, leading to a more robust and effective Vision Zero program. We expect a similar outcome from the proposed statewide Vision Zero Advisory Commission.

HB 344 is an important step forward, which will help the state meet its own Vision Zero goals and eliminate fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes. We urge the Committee to provide HB 344 with a favorable report. Thank You.