



HB 282 – Urban State Highways - Speed Limit - Exceptions

Environment & Transportation Committee

February 8, 2024

Josh Feldmark

joshua@bikemd.org

Position: Support

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Joshua Feldmark representing Bike Maryland. We represent cyclists of all abilities across the state who ride 5 miles around the park with their families, for transportation, to a 100 mile ride. We believe that absolutely everyone should feel safe when they are on Maryland roads..

Sadly, in 2023 Howard County saw two truly tragic crashes that killed young children who were pedestrians at the time they were struck by a vehicle. While I do not know what vehicles were driven that killed the children we do know that there is overwhelming data saying that there are two main factors that turn injury crashes into fatality crashes. The first is speed of the vehicle and the second is size/weight of the vehicle. Local Governments as well as MDOT very often know and see roads that are problematic and dangerous at current speeds. Being able to decrease the speed on these roads without delay will most certainly save lives without spending a dime.

We strongly support any initiative that will make our streets safer.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 282.