



POSITION STATEMENT

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

Position: Supports

Date: March 27, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr. and Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) initially voted to support this bill with amendments. The sponsor has since amended the bill to reflect the Board’s recommendations. Therefore, the Commission respectfully requests that the Judicial Proceedings Committee consider this information and include it in the record.

What this Bill Does. This bill as amended 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. This bill also authorizes a local authority in Montgomery County to implement new speed monitoring systems on a portion of highway for which the speed limit has been decreased **not earlier than one year after the implementation of the decrease in the speed limit.**

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. The Commission’s recommendation that the bill be amended to allow for implementation of new speed monitoring systems **one year after the speed limit has been decreased** has been included within the language of this bill. This amendment was necessary to allow sufficient time for drivers to adjust to the new speed but also allow for enforcement that will promote safer roadways.

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