



Chair Marc Korman  
and Members, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 20, 2025

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports House Bill 963**, which would allow transportation officials to lower speed limits in Montgomery County without a traffic study.

Research shows that the risk of severe or fatal injury increases dramatically with higher speed<sup>1</sup>. In my testimony for last year's version of this bill, I shared a story about a fatal crash near the intersection of Sligo Avenue and Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring, which is one block from my house. On December 23, 2022, a 22-year-old driver lost control and crashed, killing himself and injuring his two passengers<sup>2</sup>. Until it was recently repaired, my dog and I walked by the demolished brick retaining wall where the driver crashed almost daily, a reminder of the risk we faced as well.

County transportation officials have the tools to make our streets safer, but excessive study and review requirements mean that they don't get to use them. Following the December 2022 crash—and others that followed—my neighbors and I spent a long, frustrating year fighting for safety improvements, including a three-way stop and curb extensions. But a MCDOT speed study concluded that we weren't eligible for anything else. That response is not only insufficient, but it puts lives at risk. A lower speed limit is just the first step to making a street safer, but it is an important one. We ask the Environment and Transportation Committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed  
Regional Policy Director

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iihs.org/topics/speed>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/12/24/fatal-car-crash-silver-spring/>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.