



# CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support Senate Bill 424 – Urban State Highways – Speed Limits – Exceptions**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**January 29, 2025**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which removes a requirement for a full engineering and traffic investigation before the State Highway Administration (SHA) can act to decrease the maximum speed limit by 5 MPH on an urban highway.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County. The City has several urban highways, as defined in this legislation, that are surrounded by residential neighborhoods and schools. The City does not have sidewalks on all of its local streets. Therefore, vehicle speed is a concern for many of our residents, especially families with school-aged children, walking, biking, scooting, or waiting for a school bus.

We thank the sponsor for this proposal. This bill allows municipalities to work with the SHA to make modest decreases in speed limits on urban highways. This is a common sense, cost-saving measure that will enable communities such as ours to make necessary adjustments to speed limits which will save lives. Formal engineering and traffic studies are cost prohibitive for small communities such as ours. However, our local police are intimately familiar with the locations in the City where speeding is a concern, and where lowering speed limits by 5 MPH will be practical and appropriate.

Removing the study requirement supports the City of Takoma Park's Vision Zero goal to create a safer community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 424 and urges a favorable committee vote.