



January 31, 2022

Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 254 – State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities – Infrastructure Review

Dear Chair Barve and Environment and Transportation Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Gaithersburg to express support for HB 254- State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities –Infrastructure Review, which would require the State Highway Administration to conduct an infrastructure review of each pedestrian or bicyclist fatality that occurs on a State highway or at an intersection of a State highway and another highway or a municipal street.

Ensuring the safety of pedestrians and cyclists has been a priority for the City of Gaithersburg for many years. From investments in traffic-calming devices to the recent adoption of a new, municipal “road code” that develops typologies that reflect both Vision Zero and Complete Streets principles in road design and improve multimodal travel for pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and other alternatives, Gaithersburg has worked tirelessly to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities on roads upon which the City has authority. Bill HB 254 will help to further our efforts by requiring the State Highway Administration (SHA) to conduct a review of any infrastructure deficiencies that may have contributed to a pedestrian or bicyclist fatality along state highways. While the bill does not require SHA and/or other responsible jurisdictions to make any improvements that could reduce or eliminate the chance of a similar incident at an accident location, the infrastructure review will illuminate the issues that may have contributed to a loss of life along Maryland’s roadways, and help to guide and prioritize investments in future capital improvement schedules.

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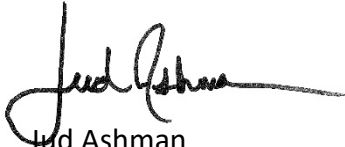
MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

Some of the core elements of Vision Zero – the strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries- include education, transparency, and a data-driven approach to identifying and mitigating risks to pedestrians and bicyclists. Bill HB 254 will help to advance those elements and, hopefully, support our mutual objective of saving lives.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jud Ashman

Mayor

City of Gaithersburg