

Miriam Schoenbaum/Action Committee for Transit
15004 Clopper Rd
Boys MD 20841

Environment and Transportation Committee
February 3rd, 2022
HB 254: Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022

On behalf of the Action Committee for Transit, I ask for FAVORABLE consideration of HB 254.

The stated mission of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is: “To provide a safe, well-maintained, reliable highway system that enables mobility choices for all customers and supports Maryland’s communities, economy and environment.”

This bill will help them achieve their mission.

Since 2019, as part of my volunteer work with the Action Committee for Transit and Montgomery County Families for Safe Streets, I have organized roadside “ghost shoe” and “ghost bike” memorials for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorists killed on roads and streets in Montgomery County.

Time after time, these memorials are located in places where other people had already been killed or almost killed – and where MDOT SHA made no meaningful changes to reduce the dangers in these places.

Because MDOT SHA does not systematically review the dangerous conditions after a pedestrian, bicyclist, or bus-rider has been killed, we have been doing that work for them, as volunteers, for free.

Several times, MDOT SHA has agreed to make infrastructure changes after our advocacy efforts.

Other times, it takes multiple deaths, over years, before MDOT SHA agrees to make meaningful changes.

Most commonly, even after multiple deaths, MDOT SHA does not make any meaningful changes.

At the memorials, the families often ask why MDOT SHA allowed these dangerous conditions to continue. Why didn’t MDOT SHA try to fix the problems? Shouldn’t one death be enough?

It breaks my heart to tell them that MDOT SHA didn’t even bother to try to identify the infrastructure conditions that contributed to the death of their loved one, let alone fix them.

MDOT SHA should already have been doing the work that HB 254 would require them to do. But they are not doing it. That is why we need HB 254.

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Frederick Ave/MD355 & South Westland Drive, Gaithersburg



Veirs Mill Rd/MD 586 & Ferrara Avenue, Wheaton

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Georgia Ave/MD97 and Regina Drive/Rippling Brook Drive, Aspen Hill

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New Hampshire Avenue/MD650 and Elton Road, Hillandale

(Note: yet another pedestrian, a 70-year-old man, was killed at this intersection on January 17, 2022)