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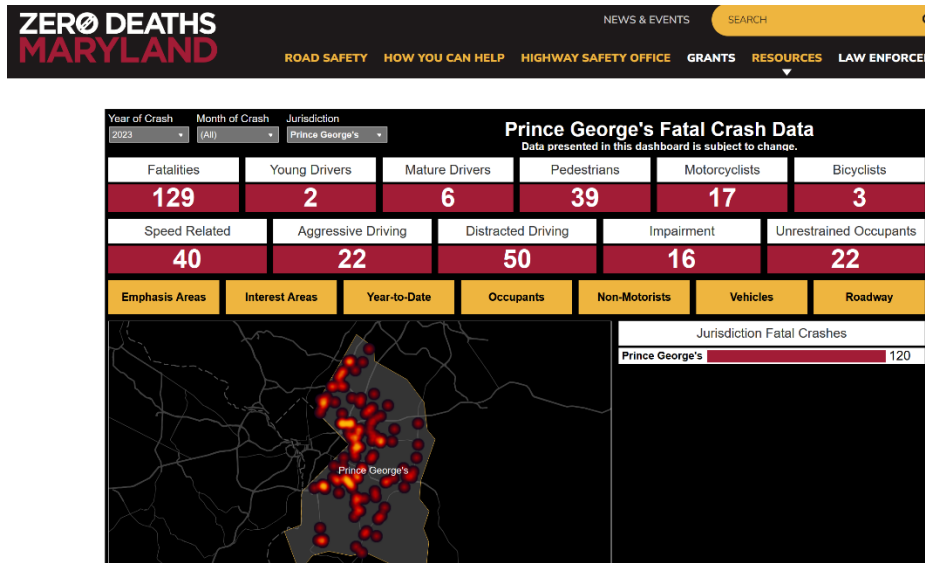
6 February 2024

HB 0364 (Prince George's delegation) FAVORABLE

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving safety and accessibility for all residents and road users along Greenbelt Road (MD Route 193) between Greenbelt and Glenn Dale MD. Our organization supports the use of additional automated traffic control enforcement in Prince George's County.

Compared with neighboring Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties, Prince George's County had triple the number of fatalities from crashes in 2023: 129 fatalities from 120 crashes, including 40 deaths related to speed, 22 to aggressive driving, and 50 to distraction (see chart from ZeroDeathsMD.gov). At least two of those 2023 deaths occurred along the route of our proposed trail, including a 4-year-old child and a pedestrian.



Source: www.zerodeathsmd.gov

Anecdotally, I have observed a complete absence of police enforcement in recent years. For whatever reason – whether to reduce unfair profiling of drivers, or in the interest of police officers' safety – the lack of live officer traffic enforcement is simply a fact in our county in 2024. And drivers know it. Driving actions that used to be taboo, such as running full red lights and stop signs without slowing, or passing aggressively on shoulders or across double yellow lines, or making U-turns across multiple lanes of traffic, are now far too frequent.

Additional automated enforcement will be necessary, along with traffic calming engineering -- such as the Greenbelt East Trail we've proposed -- to reduce number of traffic deaths in our county, and we thank Del. Healey for leading our county delegation's effort to improve safety on our roads.

Thank you,
Jeff Lemieux, Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail