



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 345 – Transportation – Vision Zero Advisory Commission – Establishment
SUPPORT

The City of Rockville is thankful to Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding SB 345. We are thankful to Senator Waldstreicher for sponsoring this important legislation.

A Vision Zero Advisory Commission composed of transportation, public health, and safety professionals will be a valued asset for Maryland’s Vision Zero program. This Commission will be able to provide direct guidance to the Governor and State agencies regarding who to best implement Vision Zero, including identifying roadway safety priorities, identifying laws and policies that obstruct transportation safety, and providing an additional review of the Pedestrian and Bicyclists Fatalities Infrastructure Review reports. This commission will benefit from the insight of its participants as well as having access to statewide sources of information to comprehensively evaluate the state’s Vision Zero program progress.

In Rockville, most streets included in our Vision Zero High Injury Network are state roadways and all efforts to advance the state’s Vision Zero program also advance our own program.

Similar to the proposed legislation, our Department of Public Works staff provides updates and consults with the Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, and the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee. These groups provide unique insight and recommendations regarding the city’s roadway improvements and the lived experience in Rockville, leading to a more robust and effective Vision Zero program. We expect a similar outcome from the proposed statewide Vision Zero Advisory Commission.

SB 345 is an important step forward, which will help the state meet its own Vision Zero goals and eliminate fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes. We urge the Committee to provide SB 345 with a favorable report.