



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 562

Support with Amendment

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 18, 2021

HB 562: Montgomery County – Speed Limits - Establishment

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The City of Takoma Park supports HB 562 with a recommendation for an amendment.

The safety of adults and children who are walking, biking, and using micromobility devices is of utmost importance to Takoma Park. This bill would enable Montgomery County to lower the speed limit to 15 miles per hour when needed. We support this and ask that the bill include an amendment to allow municipalities within the County to make these decisions as well.

Research shows that lower speed limits can prevent crashes and save lives, especially when crashes involve our most vulnerable roadway users -- people who are walking and biking. Lower speed limits are particularly important for young children and older adults.

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board recently adopted a Regional Roadway Safety Policy that recommends actions that would help jurisdictions to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, which remain unacceptably high in our region. Based on a regional roadway safety study, one of these recommendations is to reduce unsafe vehicle speeds.

For these reasons, we strongly support HB 562 with an amendment that would specify that Montgomery County and municipalities within Montgomery County be able to reduce the speed limit to 15 MPH. This would be an important step towards priorities the safety of our most vulnerable roadway users.

Thank you.