



January 12, 2023

Dear Council President Glass and Members of the Council,

As strong supporters of the Montgomery County Vision Zero and Montgomery County Safe Routes to School programs, and as advocates for the safety of our students, we ask the Montgomery County Council to introduce and pass legislation to require the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to -

- Identify and track each collision that:
 - involves a student going to or from school, and/or
 - occurs in a designated school zone or on school property during arrival or dismissal times.
- Conduct an infrastructure review of each such collision, identifying deficiencies in engineering and traffic control that contributed to the collision.
- Identify appropriate corrective actions and crash reduction countermeasures that prioritize student safety over traffic operations, including:
 - modifying roadway geometries
 - repairing, replacing, or installing traffic control devices
 - reducing posted speed limits
 - adding or modifying sidewalks and bicycle lanes
 - adding accessible signals or modifying signals to make them accessible
 - marking unmarked crosswalks, adding midblock marked crosswalks, improving the visibility for drivers of existing marked crosswalks
 - improving street lighting
 - adding right turn on red restrictions for drivers, and
 - other appropriate countermeasures.
- Complete the infrastructure review within 6 months of the collision.
- Publish the collision tracking dataset and the completed infrastructure reviews on the County website.

This legislation is modeled the Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022, sponsored by Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr in the Maryland General Assembly's 2022 session, which passed and became effective on October 1, 2022, and requires the Maryland State Highway Administration to take similar actions for every pedestrian or bicyclist killed on a state highway.

If MCDOT does not have sufficient funding in their operating budget to carry out these steps, we will be happy to work with you to identify funding to reallocate to this project. We believe that student safety should be one of MCDOT's highest priorities. We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss this proposal in more detail.

Sincerely,

Amy Frieder
President,
Action Committee for Transit

Melissa Regan and Kristy Daphnis
Co-Chairs,
Montgomery County Council of PTAs
Safe Routes to School Committee

Peter Gray
Maryland Organizer,
Washington Area Bicyclist Association