



PG/MC 113-24 – Montgomery County – Transportation Planning – Local
Authority
Washington Area Bicyclist Association – UNFAVORABLE

December 4, 2023

Chairs Kramer and Palakovich Carr and Members of the Montgomery County Delegation,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members, opposes bill PG/MC 113-24.

WABA finds it appropriate and desirable that a general plan, master plan, functional plan, or other plan include transportation operational considerations. PG/MC 113-24 would disallow these considerations in Montgomery County plans.

Among the transportation operational considerations listed by the bill for disallowal are stormwater management; location and requirements for traffic control devices; and standards and requirements for pedestrian and bicycle crossings, transit stops, and lighting.

This bill would strip the Montgomery Planning and the Montgomery County Council of their current role in planning and implementing critical safety, stormwater, traffic-management, and transportation policy measures. Montgomery Planning and the County Council have successfully and productively carried out this role for years. The current planning approach and processes largely work well.

There is no good reason to change the current allocation of responsibilities. There are very good reasons to oppose the bill's proposed changes with degradation of Montgomery County transportation safety topping the list.

WABA urges an unfavorable Delegation vote on PG/MC 113-24.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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