

March 20, 20223

Jamie Herr

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Montgomery County Council  
Stella Warner Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Bill 11-23, Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Traffic Control Signals, Devices, and Enforcement Action Plan (The Safe Streets Act of 2023)

Dear Montgomery County Council:

I am writing to provide comments on the above referenced Safe Streets Act of 2023. First, I want to applaud the County for consideration of this Bill as it is long overdue. The state of street and roadway design and safety in our County is at a crossroads, pun intended. I support the proposed additions of an infrastructure review after any pedestrian related collision, restricting right turns on red at certain intersections, requiring traffic control devices at crosswalks in certain areas and other elements of the Bill. However, the biggest problem with the Bill is that it does not, and cannot, go far enough.

The safety of the County's roadways is not in the hands of those most familiar with the local issues or the most invested in their success. The County has a strong, progressive platform of street and pedestrian safety, but lacks the authority to implement it on the roads that matter most: state highways. If the County Council seriously wants to improve pedestrian and driver safety throughout the County, it is imperative that the County take over ownership/management of all roads controlled by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). The SHA design guidelines and safety procedures are outdated and unresponsive to the rapidly growing urban context of Montgomery County. They are not capable of meeting the needs of our County and people are dying because of it.

I strongly support the above referenced Bill, but just as strongly encourage the County Council to take the next steps to protect all roads, all road users, all pedestrian crossings, and all intersections.

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Sincerely,

*Jamie Herr*

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