Testimony on behalf of the County Executive Marc Elrich Bill 11-23, Motor Vehicles and Traffic - Traffic Control Signals, Devices, and Enforcement Action Plan

My name is Wade Holland, Vision Zero Coordinator for the County Government. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 11-23 on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich. Bill 11-23 takes steps to improve pedestrian safety in our downtown and town center areas by expanding "No Turn on Red" restrictions and implementing "Leading Pedestrian Intervals" at signalized intersections. The bill also requires crash reviews in school zones and publishing an automated enforcement plan.

The County Executive supports the intent of all four of these initiatives as each is an element of our existing Vision Zero 2030 Action Plan. Executive agency staff looks forward to working with the Council on amendments to enhance the effectiveness of this legislation by requiring the development of an implementation plan for "No Turn on Red Restrictions" and "Leading Pedestrian Intervals," encouraging more uniform implementation at County and State locations, and providing for waiver requirements at locations where it is determined that implementation will be counterproductive or alternative treatments may be a better fit for the context. The automated enforcement plan should reflect automated enforcement technologies approved for use by the State and County. Currently, stop sign monitoring systems are not permitted in Maryland and enabling legislation will not be passed in the legislature this year.

The County Executive thanks the Council for considering measures to improve roadway safety and advance Vision Zero on County roads through measures like those recommended in Bill 11-23.