



Date: September 19, 2022

Subject: **CB57-2022**

Testimony in SUPPORT with Amendments

By Paul Verchinski, HCCA Board Member

To: Howard County Council

CB57-2022 requires that the Department of Police notify the Director of Public Works within two weeks of **every** traffic fatality in Howard County and perform an investigation on road geometrics that may contribute to the fatality. Currently, Howard County has 12 to 20 fatalities annually.

As a Transportation Planner, I personally think that this is a good idea. However, police investigations usually will take more than two weeks to complete and may ultimately result in police citations for car operator error, drunken driving, etc.

This legislation appears to be trying to identify where fatalities occur and if road geometrics have contributed to fatalities. An Annual Report would provide a better sense of roads and intersections needing modification if fatalities are identified occurring at or near the same locations over a year or series of years.

We therefore suggest that the following Amendments be considered in Title 17, Subtitle 2, Section 17.200A, Subsection (d)(5)(1) by striking the language in its entirety and replacing with the following:

- (1) WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, . SHALL NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF ALL TRAFFIC FATALITIES OCCURRING DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR CATEGORIZED BY TYPE OF POLICE CITATION AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT

And further Amend Title 21, Subtitle 3, Section 2.316 (E) (1) by striking the language in its entirety and replacing with the following:

- (1) COMPLETE AN ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE ANNUAL TRAFFIC FATALITY REPORT

We think that this approach will better identify intersections and roads needing improvements rather than one off traffic fatalities due to other causes.

Paul Verchinski