



Submitted testimony on MC 7-24

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, House Chair
and Members, Montgomery County Delegation
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

December 4, 2023

Dear Delegate Palakovich Carr and Members of the Montgomery County Delegation:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. GGWash supports bill MC 7-24, which will align state highways in Montgomery County's downtowns and town centers with county regulations under the new Safe Streets Act. As of October 2023, 36 people were killed on county streets this year, the highest rate since 2007.¹ This bill addresses this trend in two ways.

First, it requires right turn on red restrictions for state-controlled intersections in our downtowns and town centers, which is shown to reduce vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle crashes.² Second, it allows leading pedestrian intervals at crosswalks, giving pedestrians a head start before vehicles can enter the intersection. State highways are typically the largest, busiest, fastest roads in areas like downtown Silver Spring. These changes will make these streets safer for everyone, including people walking and bicycling. These reforms are key to encouraging more people to get around without a car and achieving the county's Vision Zero goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2030. We ask the county delegation to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director
Greater Greater Washington

¹ <https://moco360.media/2023/10/05/marylands-2023-traffic-fatalities-may-top-2007s-grim-death-toll/>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/oct/17/right-turn-on-red-light-ban>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.