

Director William Pines  
Maryland State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

## **Urgent Need for Traffic Safety Improvements along Route 202 and Route 704 in Prince George's County, MD**

Dear Administrator Pines,

I write to respectfully request a comprehensive traffic study, to include information about vehicular and pedestrian incidents, and necessary safety improvements along Routes 202 and 704 in Prince George's County. These corridors serve as vital commuter routes and local connectors, yet they have been the site of multiple fatal accidents just in the last calendar year. For example, in July 2025, there was a seven-vehicle crash that tragically claimed two lives and injured several others. Another serious crash occurred along Route 704, within Councilmanic District 5, during the same period. These incidents, along with long-standing traffic incident data for those corridors, highlight the urgent need to evaluate roadway safety and implement solutions that prevent future tragedies.

### **Urgent Need for a Comprehensive Traffic Study**

Since September 2025, I have been actively advocating for legislative and administrative action to require the Department of Transportation to conduct a detailed traffic incident study along these corridors. To date, we've amplified this request during discussions on the Prince George's County General Assembly Committee, engaged local and state-level with transportation and public safety partners including the State Highway Administration District 3 lead, and reached out to community stakeholders—whom have all voiced need for this, or a similar effort. This roadway has unfortunately seen too many accidents, and we must work together to make this roadway safer, and to prevent unnecessary tragedies like these from happening.

### **Planning for Future Growth**

Traffic patterns along these corridors will also be further affected by proposals to increase residential density. Specifically, this year, Governor Wes Moore has proposed a robust agenda of legislation to support increasing housing density across Maryland. These changes will undoubtedly have an impact on the number of residents living along these state roadways—which can further increase the occurrence of traffic fatalities if the appropriate safety measures aren't put in place. Conducting a traffic study now will ensure that the State and County can work proactively towards a housing expansion strategy while making sure appropriate measures are in place to accommodate this growth.

## **Conclusion**

Prince George's County experiences nearly three times as many traffic fatalities as neighboring counties such as Baltimore County and Montgomery Counties, which is unacceptable. Every motorist and pedestrian deserves to travel our roadways safely and to make it home to their friends and families each day. A comprehensive study will allow the Maryland State Highway Administration to assess crash patterns, traffic flow, signage, and signal timing. The findings will also guide the implementation of proactive traffic-calming measures, and infrastructure improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities.

We respectfully urge the Maryland State Highway Administration to conduct a comprehensive traffic study along Route 202 and Route 704 and to engage community stakeholders in the planning process. I request a written response outlining the proposed next steps by **Friday, May 1, 2026**, and welcome the opportunity to meet with your team to discuss strategies for advancing this study.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to roadway safety in our region.

Sincerely,

Krystal Oriadha  
Council Chair