
February 16, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 353 – Traffic Control Device Monitoring Systems – Authorization

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 353 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 353 would authorize state and local government entities to use traffic control device monitoring systems on their roadways. If a local or county jurisdiction decides to use a system on a State Highway, the political subdivision must submit a permit request to MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) for review and approval. Additionally, House Bill 353 would require the agency adopting the use of the system to publish notice on their website that the devices are being used on roadways within the jurisdiction. SHA would be required to notify motorists by fabricating and installing signs along the State highways where the traffic control monitoring systems are used.

Like the process for speed monitoring systems along State highways, local jurisdictions would need to apply for a permit from SHA prior to installing stop traffic control device monitoring systems within SHA right-of-way. To facilitate that permit review process, SHA would develop criteria and guidance to establish best practices for the placement of speed monitoring systems along State highways.

SHA requests clarification on the definition of "traffic control device monitoring systems". Language contained in House Bill 353 is not clear regarding the types of violations captured by these devices. In addition, SHA requests striking the language regarding signage and notification of the traffic control device monitoring system as SHA does not currently install signs for speed monitoring systems that are placed along State highways. Should local jurisdictions place the device, they should also fabricate and install the signs. Like the device itself, such signs would require a SHA permit and would need to meet SHA signage requirements and design standards as identified in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

The SHA looks forward to working with local partners to promote safety for all users of our roadways, including pedestrians and bicyclists. When planning for new monitoring systems along the roadways it is important to identify locations that are the most effective at improving safety, while also considering right-of-way needs.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 353.

Respectfully submitted,

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