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Lieutenant Governor
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Secretary

March 23, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 11 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – School Zones

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 11 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 11 would alter the definition of a school zone and codifies the State Highway Administration’s (SHA) regulations regarding the placement of school zone cameras on SHA right-of-way. Senate Bill 11 would also require that, should a school zone camera be placed outside of 500 feet approaching or beyond the school building or grounds, it must be recommended by a traffic engineering study.

The SHA operates all non-tolled and numbered roads in the State. Any infrastructure, including school zone speed cameras, that is placed on SHA right-of-way by another political subdivision must be reviewed and approved by SHA before installation. The respective political subdivision’s designated agency submits a permit to SHA to determine if the prospective camera location meets the criteria outlined in current SHA regulations.

With the change proposed by Senate Bill 11, the SHA would have to conduct an inventory of permitted school zone cameras that are currently deployed and determine if the cameras are compliant. There is a possibility that some of the cameras deployed may have to come down or be moved if traffic studies cannot justify the current placement of the camera.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 11.

Respectfully submitted,

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