

## Background for automated enforcement

The State of Maryland enacted enabling legislation in 2011 that permits local jurisdictions to implement school bus safety camera programs.

A joint pilot between the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) began in January 2014 with 25 cameras placed on the outside of school buses; the cameras were strategically deployed throughout the County. The cameras have the ability to record vehicles that pass stopped school buses that have activated flashing red lights. Violations captured by these cameras are reviewed by the police department's Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit and citations are mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

In October 2016, MCPD and MCPS embarked on an Automated School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program. After the enactment of State and Local legislation, the program went "live" on October 13, 2016, with a total 81 buses installed with cameras. By November of 2016, the number of camera-equipped buses increased to 103. By March of 2017, the number of buses with cameras increased to over 200 and it remained at that number for the duration of the 2016-2017 school year. For the duration of the 2017-2018 school year, 500 buses were equipped with enforcement cameras. By the 2019-2020 school year, all MCPS school buses were equipped. The decrease between FY22 and FY23 was due to decommissioning older buses in the fleet.

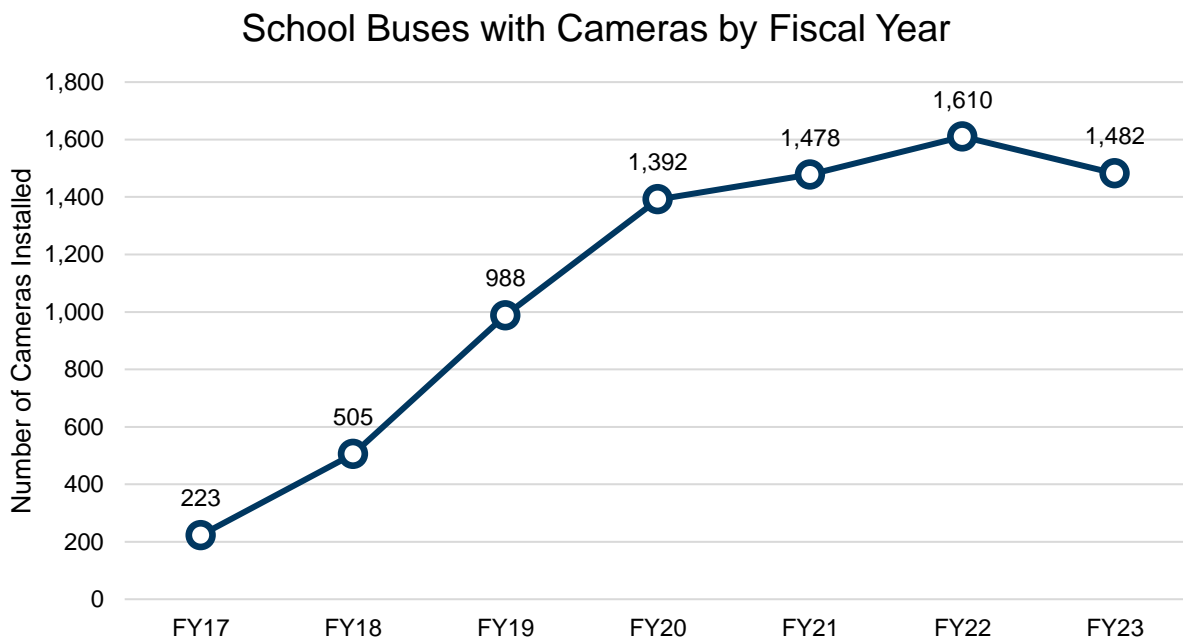


Figure 3 - Number of school buses equipped with cameras by fiscal year.

# Citations issued

## Citations by fiscal year

In FY23, the school bus monitoring program issued 52,066 citations, resulting in \$13 million in fines. Of these citations, 72% (37,739) were for drivers passing in the opposite direction, while 28% (14,327) were for those traveling in the same direction as the stopped bus. Citations decreased 13% in FY23, with an 18% decrease in same-direction citations and a 10% decrease in opposite-direction citations. Preliminary FY24 data show a continued downward trend in citations, aligning with the County's experience with other automated enforcement programs.

	FY18	FY19	FY20*	FY21*	FY22	FY23
<b>Citations mailed</b>	34,201	54,837	50,698	7,058	59,614	52,066
<b>Citations per active camera</b>	68	56	36	5	37	35
<b>Citations from opposite direction</b>	20,720	34,415	31,573	4,827	42,127	37,739
<b>Citations from same direction</b>	12,928	20,413	19,125	2,231	17,487	14,327
<b>Citations with direction not captured</b>	553	9	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fines</b>	\$8,549,750	\$13,708,125	\$12,674,500	\$1,764,500	\$14,903,500	\$13,016,500

\*School closures during COVID-19 pandemic resulted in fewer bus trips.

## FY23 top 10 citation locations

For FY23, the following ten blocks had the highest number of recorded violations. Eight of the top 10 blocks were along multi-lane State roads with the remaining two belonging to the County. These ten blocks accounted for 22% of all citations issued. See the Appendix for a detailed analysis of each bus stop and any safety recommendations.

Block	Roadway Owner	Violations Same Direction	Violations from Opposite Direction	Total Violations
5100 RIVER RD, 20816	State	156	1,888	2,044
8800 COLESVILLE RD, 20910	State	259	1,738	1,997
1400 EAST WEST HWY, 20910	State	217	1,406	1,623
800 UNIVERSITY BLVD E, 20903	State	69	1,074	1,143
5200 RIVER RD, 20816	State	103	992	1,095
400 N FREDERICK AVE, 20877	State	50	907	957
900 CLOPPER RD, 20878	State	190	691	881
7100 ARLINGTON RD, 20814	County	38	686	724
7900 GEORGIA AVE, 20910	State	39	577	616
2300 BEL PRE RD, 20906	County	20	491	511

To see data on citations issued under the school bus monitoring program for all school bus stops, use the link below or visit the Montgomery County Vision Zero website. The reporting unit for school bus stops is the block level.

Link: [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/FY17-23\\_Bus\\_Camera\\_Tickets\\_by\\_Stop\\_and\\_Fiscal\\_Year\\_PUBLISHED.csv](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/FY17-23_Bus_Camera_Tickets_by_Stop_and_Fiscal_Year_PUBLISHED.csv)

**NOTE ON BLOCK ADDRESSES:** When the school bus monitoring system captures a violation, the bus’s latitude and longitude are captured. The latitude and longitude are then matched to the nearest address. When the bus stop is near an intersection, the matched address may be along the intersecting road. Therefore, some of the block information presented in the block summary may reflect a violation that occurred on an intersecting road.

# Citations issued

For fiscal year 2022 (FY22), 59,151 citations were issued under the school bus monitoring program resulting in \$14.8 million in fines. Based on the direction of the passing vehicle, 41,799 (71%) of drivers passed in the opposite direction and 17,352 (29%) were traveling the same direction as the stopped bus.

FY22 represented the most citations issued since the program began in 2016. The increase in violations from the prior two years was the result of all Montgomery County School buses having monitoring systems installed during the 2019-2020 school year and a restart of school bus and commuting patterns coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the low level of repeat offenders for the school bus monitoring program and experience from the red-light and speed automated enforcement program, the County expects the number of citations issued to decrease over the next five years.

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20*	FY21*	FY22
<b>Citations</b>	16,388	34,033	54,492	50,106	6,910	59,151
<i>Citations per active camera</i>	73.5	67.4	55.2	36.0	4.7	36.7
<i>Citations from opposite direction</i>	0	20,626	34,184	31,217	4,741	41,799
<i>Citations from same direction</i>	0	12,858	20,299	18,889	2,169	17,352
<i>Citations with direction not captured</i>	16,388	549	9	0	0	0
<b>Total fines</b>	\$2,048,500	\$8,508,250	\$13,621,875	\$12,526,500	\$1,727,500	\$14,787,750

\*School closures during COVID-19 pandemic resulting in fewer bus trips.

For FY22, the following blocks had the highest number of recorded violations. Eight of the top 10 blocks were along multi-lane State roads with the remaining two belonging to the County. These ten blocks accounted for 18% of all citations issued.

Comparing FY22 top violation blocks to the blocks under review by MCDOT, seven out of the ten blocks were the same. Three stops in the FY22 top ten were not in the prior top ten:

- 800 block of University Blvd E
- 7100 block of Arlington Rd
- 5400 block of Tuckerman Ln

Block	Roadway Owner	Violations Same Direction	Violations from Opposite Direction	Total Violations
5100 River Rd	State	185	1,798	1,983
8800 Colesville Rd	State	203	1,388	1,591
1400 East West Hwy	State	299	1,195	1,494
800 University Blvd E	State	138	1,022	1,160
400 N Frederick Ave	State	85	894	979
7100 Arlington Rd	County	48	798	846
5400 Tuckerman Ln	County	50	642	692
1000 Clopper Rd	State	129	553	682
8900 Piney Branch Rd	State	145	399	544
8800 Piney Branch Rd	State	99	418	517

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