



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

EVAN GLASS
COUNCILMEMBER
AT LARGE

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 665, *Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways MC 15-24*

Dear Chair Korman:

We support House Bill 665 and ask the Committee to provide a Favorable report for this legislation that will reduce dangerous driving on some of Montgomery County's most dangerous roads. Thank you to the Montgomery County Delegation for putting forward this measure, which would enable Montgomery County to place a speed monitoring system on certain roads that have been identified as high risk because of a demonstrated history of fatal or severe injury crashes.

Last year, the County Council unanimously approved the Safe Streets Act¹, which requires proven traffic safety engineering improvements including a comprehensive plan to expand use of automated speed camera enforcement throughout the County. We approved this law knowing that if the State provided greater flexibility for placement of speed cameras, this provision would be even more effective. House Bill 665 would provide that flexibility on high risk roadways that do not meet one of the currently established parameters for speed monitoring systems.

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apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2786_1_25280_Bill_11-23_Signed_20230927.pdf

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A prominent example of this type of high risk roadway is Shady Grove Road, where we have been working with residents, community leaders, and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to provide traffic calming solutions. Shady Grove Road from Frederick Road (MD 355) to Midcounty Highway has consistently been identified as part of the County's "high injury network" because of its significant history of fatal and severe injury crashes, including in the County's 2030 Vision Zero Action Plan.² According to the Montgomery County Planning Department's Interactive Crash Map,³ there have been five fatal crashes and eight severe injury crashes involving pedestrians and motorists on this section of Shady Grove Road since 2015.

The speed limit for this section of roadway is 45 miles per hour and there is no established School Zone, making it ineligible for speed camera deployment under current law. MCDOT has started the Facility Planning process for a Shady Grove Bikeway & Safety Improvements project⁴ that will take some time to complete in order to have a cost estimate to be considered in future County capital budgets. It is clear more urgent action is needed on Shady Grove Road and many other similarly situated roads in Montgomery County. We believe allowing for speed camera enforcement gives Montgomery County a tool that can more quickly reduce the dangerous levels of speeding and change driving behavior that contributes to fatal and severe injury crashes. We urge the Committee to support this legislation.

Very truly yours,



Dawn Luedtke
Councilmember, District 7



Evan Glass
Councilmember, At-Large
Chair, T&E Committee

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

² www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/Resources/Files/vz2030-plan.pdf

³ montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/vision-zero/montgomery-county-interactive-crash-map/

⁴ montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/ShadyGroveStudy/index.html