



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 665

DATE: February 29, 2024

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – High-Risk Highways MC 15-24

This bill is a revised version of a bill introduced in the 2023 Session. House Bill 665 authorizes the placement and use of speed cameras on Montgomery County roads identified in the County's Local Strategic Highway Plan (or Vision Zero Action Plan) as roads that are at high risk for vehicle crashes resulting in bodily injuries or death. Speed camera revenue would be required to be directed toward safety studies and safety-related projects on the high-risk roads. Additionally, the County would be required on or before October 1, 2029, and every five years thereafter, to evaluate the effectiveness of new cameras under the new high injury network clause. An amendment was approved by the Montgomery County Delegation to include municipalities in the bill. Montgomery County supports House Bill 665, as amended.

On November 17th, Montgomery County published its [Vision Zero FY2023 Annual Report](#) which provides highlights from the fiscal year and details work completed between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Looking ahead, the County has identified in its [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) specific activities and projects with implementation deadlines over the next two years. The plan intends to build on prior successful initiatives and develop new policies and programs to further the County's goal of ending traffic deaths and serious roadway injuries. An important element of the County's future progress in this area includes the expansion of automated speed and red-light camera enforcement – two speed management programs which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports to be highly effective in reducing speeding violations and crashes. By utilizing a hybrid approach that includes both automated enforcement and officer-initiated enforcement, drivers will be encouraged to travel at or below posted speed limits which will improve roadway safety.

House Bill 665, as amended, will provide the local authority needed to pursue this Vision Zero priority. Therefore, Montgomery County supports the bill and urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report.