



## Montgomery County's Advocates for Better Transportation

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February 11, 2024

Re: SUPPORT for HB0665 Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways

Dear Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Michael Larkin, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Action Committee for Transit (ACT), a Montgomery County-based organization. ACT strongly supports HB0665, which authorizes the placement of speed cameras on highways within the county that are at the highest risk for crashes that result in a fatality or a severe injury and allocates the fines collected for the funding of safety initiatives. This bill will also mandate that the data from the cameras be reviewed every five years to determine how effective the cameras are at reducing dangerous speeding.

According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#), speeding puts pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users at severe risk of death or long lasting injury whenever they are struck. Every additional amount of speed increases the impact and decreases the chance of survival. It is imperative to discourage this behavior because speeding drivers kill and injure our fellow community members whenever they are going about their daily lives. Moreover, Montgomery County identified Equity Focus Areas (EFA) and the data clearly shows [EFAs suffer higher rates of crashes that result in a fatality or severe injury](#). Community members of color and lower incomes are bearing the brunt of unsafe walking, rolling, and biking conditions. Many of the most dangerous streets are along state highways where people walk to the Metro, bus stops, grocery stores, and schools. It truly is a cruel fate to die or be severely injured due to a speeding driver while trying to access public transportation.

A great feature of this legislation is the positive use of fines to fund more traffic calming and other safety projects where they are most needed. Communities are left waiting for too many years for improvements due to budgetary constraints. Directing fines to fund infrastructure that prevents dangerous speeding is one way to redress the cruelty of risking life and limb for just going to the local bus stop. This bill empowers Montgomery County to redesign its streets for safety.

I have participated in pedestrian and bike safety audits, and I know members of the General Assembly or your staff have gone to these audits. We have all gone to or at least read about white shoe and ghost bike memorials after a fatal crash. We all know many residents are navigating narrow sidewalks and dangerous roads to access transit and other amenities. I was almost hit by a speeding driver while going to my volunteer election worker shift. It is imperative to bring dangerous speeding under control and HB0665 is a tool to do it with. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michael Larkin  
On Behalf of Action Committee for Transit