



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 943

DATE: March 6, 2024

SPONSOR: Senators Kelly and Lam

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

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POSITION: Support (Department of Transportation)

Vehicle Laws – Bus Obstruction Monitoring Systems (Better Bus Service Act of 2024)

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) strongly supports Senate Bill 943, which would expand to all local jurisdictions in the State the authority currently only granted to Baltimore City to use bus lane monitoring systems. Bus lane monitoring systems are used to capture a recorded image of the driver of a motor vehicle if a violation is being committed. Under Senate Bill 943, a local law enforcement agency or a contractor would be permitted to operate a bus lane monitoring system.

State roads in Montgomery County have the highest Metrobus ridership in Maryland. This month, Montgomery County will open its first bus lane, which will be 2.1 miles long, located along University Boulevard. MCDOT is also planning to install bus lanes along Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring later this year. Bus lanes will also be added as part of the County's new bus rapid transit (BRT) FLASH bus service along the Germantown Transit Center and US 29. With these projects, the County has an immediate need for efficient bus lane enforcement, and therefore Senate Bill 943 will be a useful tool to ensure the effectiveness and safety of bus lanes in Montgomery County and around the State.

Enabling the use of bus lane monitoring systems will help ensure public transit reliability and performance, thus encouraging transit ridership. The County's ability to utilize bus lane monitoring systems under Senate Bill 943 is a critical step to supporting successful implementation of bus lanes in the near term in addition to supporting the County's extensive plans for BRT over the longer term. For these reasons, MCDOT respectfully requests the Committee to vote favorably on the bill.