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BILL NO.: **SB 479**

TITLE: Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems –
Revisions (Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024)

SPONSOR: President Ferguson – By Request of the Administration

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 22, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 479 – Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems – Revisions (Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024). This legislation would expand the use of road work zone speed cameras.

Six contract workers tragically were killed when a car crashed into a road work-zone on the inner loop of I-695 in March of 2023. In response, Baltimore County has invested in expanded roadway safety improvements for drivers, road workers and pedestrians. SB 479 is aimed to broaden the preexisting work zone speed camera program in an effort to mitigate speed infractions and accidents in work zone areas. Furthermore, the legislation will increase the fines for speeding in active work zones. This increase in fines will likely change the behavior of drivers, resulting in slower speeds and a safer workplace for road workers.

Investing in our roadways is not just about improving infrastructure, but prioritizing the safety and well-being of our residents and communities. Baltimore County is grateful for the collaboration the State has provided in ensuring that vehicle speeds in road work zones are decreased. SB 479 will allow Baltimore County and the State of Maryland to continue to build a safer foundation for travel across the County.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 479 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.