



**SafeRoadsMD**

**HB1032**

Baltimore City and Montgomery County –  
Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

## **MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES MARYLAND SENATE JPR SUPPORT FOR HB1032**

March 21, 2025

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair  
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.*  
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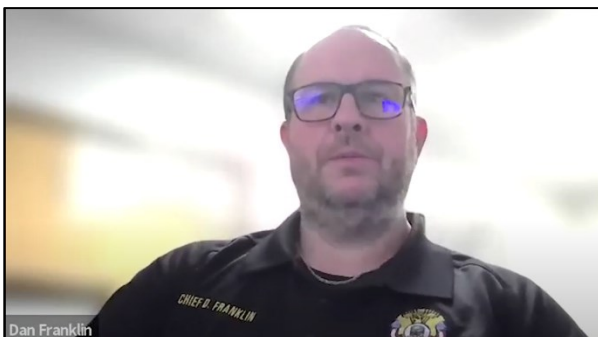
Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the JPR Committee:

SafeRoadsMD, a five-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, strongly supports the enactment of HB1032, the “Baltimore City and Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization” bill.

**We respectfully request that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to combat not only persistent, but increasing episodes of stop sign-running by drivers.**

**Maryland Lawmakers Can Continue to Build a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!**

**HB1032** would enable the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones throughout Montgomery County. This legislation offers a vital tool for protecting the lives of our most vulnerable road users—children walking to and from school—by enforcing existing traffic laws using modern, proven technology.



The need for this legislation is made clear by the testimony of experienced law enforcement professionals such as Chief Dan Franklin of Morningside, in Prince George’s County. Chief Franklin recently shared that stop sign and speed limit violations rank among the most frequent and dangerous infractions observed in school zones, which are often located near dense pedestrian traffic. In Morningside, the presence of two schools within a quarter mile of the police station makes traffic control a daily challenge—especially with limited law enforcement resources.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.  
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, Maryland 20871

With national law enforcement recruitment and retention in crisis, and jurisdictions across Maryland struggling to staff their departments, Chief Franklin and others emphasize that *technology is no longer just an enhancement—it's a necessity*. The stop sign monitoring systems permitted under similar legislation in Prince George's County have already demonstrated measurable impact. In just two months since implementation, Chief Franklin reports a **49% reduction in stop sign violations**, a result that would be nearly impossible to match even with a full force of officers.

Importantly, this legislation does not change existing traffic laws—it simply provides a mechanism to **enforce** them more effectively. Moreover, the systems require a sworn law enforcement officer to review each violation before a citation is issued, ensuring both accountability and fairness. This technology is not meant to replace officers, but to supplement them where they cannot be present—especially in high-risk school zones where safety cannot be compromised.

Concerns about privacy and overreach are understandable, but as Chief Franklin explains, the legal standard—affirmed by courts at every level—is clear: there can be no expectation of privacy when driving on public roadways for conduct - illegal or not - visible to any passersby. In any event, the [Obvio stop sign camera technology](#) is designed with privacy in mind, capturing and storing only the data necessary to document violations.

Perhaps most importantly, HB1032 answers the public's call for action. Residents regularly contact their local police departments with complaints about speeding and reckless driving. In Chief Franklin's words, "People drive like crazy around here." This bill will provide Montgomery County authorities the power to act swiftly and safely before complaints become tragedy.

In a time when roadway deaths in Maryland continue to claim more than 550 lives a year, this bill provides a common-sense, targeted solution that will protect school children, promotes driver accountability, and strengthens our communities. We respectfully ask that you support HB1032 and pave the way for Maryland to begin leading the nation in creating safer roads through innovation and responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the people of Maryland.

**You Can Do It!**

We thank you both and the Maryland Senate JPR for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB1032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John J. Seng  
Chair

cc: SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors; Seth Grimes, WABA