

March 21, 2025

HB1173: Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems - High-Risk Highways MC 17-25

Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I support HB1173, which allows the placement and use of speed monitoring systems along high-risk routes in Montgomery County.

We know that reducing the speed of vehicles results in the reduction of injuries and fatalities, with the IIHS¹ having a quick summary. When statistics show that an area of high risk of injury or fatality due to speeding, this bill will allow locality or county government to implement safety measures through automated speed enforcement which will ensure all road users have a better chance of survival and reduced injury. Any crash interaction between a motor vehicle and vulnerable road user would ultimately be reduced outright due to everyone having longer reaction times.

As a frequent pedestrian and bicyclist, I know what it feels like to be hit while walking, buzzed by motor vehicles at or above the speed limit on a 35 mph road while I ride an inadequate 4-ft shoulder. I also drive and know that when I drive even a couple MPH below the speed limit on a 35 mph posted road, for example, I have much more time to react, and I'm much more likely to slow down and wait for pedestrians to cross roads.

Areas of roadways that have been statistically shown to be high-risk areas for injuries or fatalities should have changes made. One of those changes can and should be enforcement.

Anything we can do to help save lives for people navigating our roads in a motor vehicle, bicycle, scooter, wheel chair, or on foot is a step in the right direction.

I urge a favorable report from the committee so that it can be brought to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.iihs.org/topics/speed>