



HB 1032 – Baltimore City and Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring
Systems – Authorization MC 4-25 – FAVORABLE

March 25, 2025

Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) is a regional organization that envisions a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around. WABA supports HB 1032.

We know the terrible toll that reckless and negligent driving has taken on Maryland residents and visitors. HB 1032 originated as a Montgomery County local bill. The county's most recently released Vision Zero Annual Report showed a 17% increase in roadway fatalities in 2023 compared to pre-COVID years and a continued upward trend in serious and fatal crashes following a 2020 COVID dip. In 2024, Montgomery County experienced 47 road fatalities including 16 pedestrians. This road carnage must end.

It is especially tragic when a child is killed or seriously injured in a motor vehicle collision. Just over a year ago, on November 20, 2023, 5-year-old Sky Sosa and 10-year-old Shalom Mbah were hit and killed by the driver of a motor vehicle near their elementary school in Riverdale Park in Prince George's County. This incident spurred the 2024 enactment of state legislation enabling the placement of stop-sign monitoring cameras near schools in Prince George's County.

HB 1032 is enabling legislation that would extend the authority granted in 2024 to Prince George's County, to locate stop-sign enforcement cameras near schools, to Montgomery County and Baltimore City.

We note that automated enforcement is far more equitable – and inexpensive and scalable – than in-person police enforcement, with no potential for dangerous escalation of traffic stops or discrimination against Black and Brown drivers.

We urge a favorable report on HB 1032, to promote safe streets, Vision Zero, and equitable enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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