



FREDERICK

MARYLAND

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Written Testimony of Sarah Hempel Irani
City of Frederick, City Council – District 5
Submitted by Clara Jackson, Legislative Manager

In Support of HB 55 – Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Residential Districts
Before the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 55, which expands the authority to deploy speed monitoring systems in residential districts statewide and gives communities the tools they need to improve safety on neighborhood streets. As a resident and City Council member in the City of Frederick, I see firsthand how urgently our community needs better options to address dangerous speeding in residential areas. Currently, only Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties—and the municipalities within them—are permitted to place speed cameras in residential zones. This narrow authorization leaves many communities across Maryland without access to a proven safety tool on the very streets where children play, families walk, and neighbors gather. HB 55 corrects this inequity by giving all Maryland jurisdictions the same authority, allowing local governments to respond to safety concerns with solutions tailored to their communities.

At its core, this bill is about protecting people. Maryland has already seen the effectiveness of speed cameras in school zones, where they have consistently reduced dangerous speeding and improved safety for children and families. Residential neighborhoods are home to some of our most vulnerable road users—children, older adults, and anyone who walks, bikes, or uses mobility devices. When drivers speed through these areas, the consequences can be devastating. These are precisely the environments where lower speeds matter most, and where even small reductions in vehicle speed can significantly reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes.

By giving communities the option to use speed cameras, HB 55 helps create calmer, safer streets where children can explore their neighborhoods, walk or bike to a friend’s house, and gain independence without parents fearing for their safety.

By passing HB 55, the General Assembly would provide local governments like Frederick with an additional, flexible tool to address speeding, calm traffic, and enhance safety in the places where people live, walk, and play. While no single policy can solve every traffic safety challenge, HB 55 represents an important step in a broader effort to make Maryland’s roads safer for everyone. It gives

local governments one more tool to build safer, more livable neighborhoods—places where people feel secure stepping outside their front door.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB 55 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Hempel Irani
Council Member
District 5