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HB 967

March 4, 2021

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 967 - Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems - Interstate 83
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 967.

HB 967 authorizes the City of Baltimore to install no more than two automated speed cameras on Interstate 83 (I-83) within Baltimore City limits. The two I-83 speed cameras (one northbound, one southbound) would be maintained and operated by Baltimore City Department of Transportation's (DOT) Automated Traffic Violation Enforcement System (ATVES) Division, which currently operates speed and red light cameras in the City.

Revenue generated from the speed cameras would first be allocated to pay for the operations of the two automated speed cameras. Any additional revenue would be dedicated to roadway safety improvements on I-83 through June 30, 2026. Following this 5-year period, remaining revenues would be utilized for roadway safety projects in Baltimore City.

According to a Crash Analysis Study of I-83 Baltimore City, from 2015-2019, there were more than 2,000 crashes on the roadway, 50 of which were classified as high injury/severe. Excessive speed was the #1 contributing factor in the high injury/severe crashes. According to Baltimore Police Department, in the time since this bill was debated last Session, there have been three (3) additional fatalities on I-83. Traditional methods of speed enforcement are not possible on I-83 within Baltimore City due to the existing width of roadway shoulders, the inability to widen shoulders due to fiscal and engineering constraints, and resource challenges of the Baltimore Police Department. Crashes on I-83 put lives at risk, contribute to traffic congestion, and pull finite first responder resources from nearby Baltimore neighborhoods.

DOT's ATVES Division installed a data camera, designed to study vehicular speeds on I-83 Southbound at 41st Street. During a one-week period (March 5-12, 2020) from 6:00am to

8:00pm, the camera captured approximately 360,984 vehicles traveling on the roadway. Of these vehicles, 151,897 (42%) were found to exceed the speed limit by 12 MPH or more and 102,244 (28%) exceeded the speed limit by more than 15 MPH. The highest recorded speed was 173 MPH.

Passage of HB 967, would put I-83 in a similar posture to Indian Head Highway, Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County. In 2018 the General Assembly authorized Prince George's County to install up to one automated speed camera on the highway and in 2019 the General Assembly expanding the permitted installation of speed cameras on the highway from one to three.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 967.