

February 9, 2021

Environment and Transportation Committee
Housing Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HB 564, Montgomery County – Automated Traffic Enforcement – Implementing Agency MC
04-21 (Support)**

Testimony for February 11, 2021

Jane Lyons, Maryland Advocacy Manager

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and delegates, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 564. Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading organization in the D.C. region advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We urge you to support HB 564, which would authorize Montgomery County to move oversight of automated traffic enforcement to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, rather than the Police Department. Automated enforcement is already a great tool to objectively enforce traffic laws without biases, and allowing MCDOT to implement speed monitoring systems can further move traffic enforcement into civilian hands. It can also help the transportation agency more quickly identify and make design changes to certain locations to address safety issues.

Black and brown residents are disproportionately likely to be pulled over, receive a citation, and to have police force used against them during a traffic stop. This does not result in safer streets – rather, the opposite. This stokes distrust among community members and law enforcement. HB 564 is one step in the right direction to take police out of traffic enforcement and focus more on automated systems, safe design, and preventative actions to reduce traffic violations and eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities.

Therefore, we urge you to support HB 564. Thank you.