

Action Committee for Transit (ACT) Testimony

Support: HB0383 – Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems – Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies – Repeal and Notification Requirement

Maryland General Assembly, Environment and Transportation Committee

January 21, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm here today on behalf of ACT, the Action Committee for Transit. I want to say upfront that ACT supports this bill. We believe that it will close a loophole in current law that makes it difficult to enforce red light violations on rental car drivers who endanger pedestrians.

One of ACT's main goals is the implementation of Vision Zero – zero fatalities among drivers and pedestrians. Red-light violations significantly increase danger to both. In 2019, a *AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety* [report](#) showed red-light running crashes had reached a ten-year high and that 28% of crash deaths at signalized intersections are the result of a driver running a red light.

To accomplish our Vision Zero goals, we need to establish traffic policies that promote safe driving and protect pedestrians. We believe this bill supports those goals by closing a loophole in the enforcement of red-light violations, making it easier to cite any driver who endanger pedestrians by ignoring red lights and violating crosswalks.

Additionally, we hope the bill would incentivize rental car companies to improve driver safety information for their customers, notifying them of their liability for red light violations and encouraging safer driving overall.

In short, ACT supports any policy change that moves us closer to our goal of zero pedestrian and driver fatalities. This bill will hopefully get us one small step closer to Vision Zero.

Thank you.