



## PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### **Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: HB231 Montgomery County – Automated Traffic Enforcement – Implementing Agency MC18-22 February 10, 2022, 1:00PM**

**Testimony Delivered by:** Kristy Daphnis, Chair, Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

**Bill Position:** Favorable

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 231. HB231 is a bill that will authorize Montgomery County to designate the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) - instead of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) - as the agency responsible for implementing automated traffic enforcement programs in Montgomery County. Should responsibility shift from MCPD to MCDOT, this bill would require MCDOT to sign automated traffic enforcement citations.

The Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) tasked with advising the County Executive and the County Council on issues related to traffic safety. It includes Members from the community, as well as Members from state and local agencies – including MCDOT and MCPD.

After a discussion of this legislation amongst PBTSAC Committee Members, we would like to ask the Committee to support this bill and report out favorably. Given the County and State Vision Zero goals and the actions that are necessary to move toward zero deaths – we feel that it is important for jurisdictions to be given control over alignment and management of interventions to achieve that goal. In this case, the enabling legislation HB231 would allow Montgomery County to assess how to best implement enforcement of existing traffic laws, including appropriate placement and administration of the County’s automated enforcement function. Passage of HB231 is an important and necessary step. It will allow the County to consider whether it is best to keep automated enforcement within MCPD (with continued program coordination between MCDOT and MCPD), or whether it makes more sense to wholly move that function from the MCPD to the MCDOT. This bill is important, because it allows and enables the County to assess this decision from policy and effectiveness perspective – versus having existing State laws in place as a barrier that prohibits mere consideration of that policy decision.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.