

# **Testimony for HB0304-updated.pdf**

Uploaded by: Barbara Sollner-Webb

Position: FAV

Testimony for HB0304 (to establish a Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program)

Hello! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, a 50-year resident of Prince George's County and President ex officio of the West Laurel Civic Association. Speaking for myself and my husband, indeed for the vast majority of the 1800 residences in our civic association (very many of whom have spoke out in anguish about excessively loud hot rod-style road noise), we strongly support HB 304 and urge its unanimous passage. When we want to enjoy the tranquility of our houses in our nice neighborhood, it seems unfair to the subjected to hellishly loud street noise being generated solely to satisfy some small people's egos.

from Barbara Sollner-Webb (17200 Melbourne Dr. Laurel MD 20707, [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-655-3552

# Calverton Testimony HB304 272023.pdf

Uploaded by: Bernadine Karns

Position: FAV

***Calverton Citizens Association***  
***P. O. Box 21***  
**Beltsville, Maryland 20704-0021**

February 7, 2023

Kumar P. Barve *Chair*  
Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB304, Motor Vehicles, Noise Limits and Modifications of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices

Hello Chair Barve,

The Calverton Citizens Association and the Calverton community have had it. Enough is enough.

Enough is enough with the noise from modified exhaust systems. Communities need noise limits on vehicles, on modified exhaust systems on vehicles, and law enforcement needs noise abatement systems to enforce the noise limits. We cannot take it anymore.

Many jurisdictions have noise ordinances where a loud noise cannot be heard 50 feet from source and cannot be heard during certain hours of the day. Yet, these vehicles with modified exhaust systems can be heard from blocks, and blocks, and blocks, and blocks away from the source and all hours of the day. Please vote yes on HB304 and give us the opportunity to sit on our porches, talk to our neighbors and drive down the road without thinking that a Mack truck or a tank is going to run over top of us.

Please help our community and all communities in the state of Maryland. HB304 will improve the quality of life in our community, improve the quality of life in other communities and counties and will improve the quality of life for all Maryland residents. Please give us peace. Please vote yes on HB304.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernadine (Bernie) Karns, President  
Calverton Citizens Association  
3005 Gazebo Court  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301-572-8018 (H)  
301-538-5280 (CP)

Calverton is a bi-county community located in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties

# **SEMA HB 304 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christian Robinson

Position: FAV



**Chairman of the Board**  
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**Chairman Elect**  
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**General Counsel**  
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\* Executive Committee

February 7, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SEMA Support for HB 304

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to express support for House Bill (HB) 304 (Lehman), which reform's the state's motor vehicle noise laws to create a fair, objective standard of measure for all motorists while increasing penalties for those who willfully violate the law. SEMA thanks Del. Lehman for her willingness to work with us and other stakeholders on this matter.

Under current Maryland law, an individual may not modify a vehicle's exhaust system in such a manner that it causes the vehicle to emit more noise than when it was originally manufactured. This law is problematic for two reasons: 1. It creates hundreds of exhaust noise standards on which police must enforce as there are hundreds of makes and models on the road today, each emitting a different range of sound. 2. The law does not prescribe an objective method for measuring vehicle exhaust noise. In other words, it is at the sole discretion of law enforcement to determine if a vehicle is too loud. This is a subjective standard and is unfair to all parties involved.

If enacted, HB 304 would set one standard for all motor vehicles that mirrors California's (95-decibels) and provide grant money to local law enforcement to purchase the necessary technology to determine if a vehicle complies with the law. In addition to increased penalties, the bill would also give police the authority to issue repair orders, ensuring that excessively loud vehicles are ultimately brought into compliance.

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at [christianr@sema.org](mailto:christianr@sema.org).

Sincerely,

Christian Robinson  
Senior Director, State Government Affairs & Grassroots  
Specialty Equipment Market Association

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 4910  
Diamond Bar, Calif 91765-0910

**Shipping Address:**  
1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.  
Diamond Bar, Calif. 91765-3914

**Telephone:** 909-610-2030

E-mail: [sema@sema.org](mailto:sema@sema.org)  
Website: [www.sema.org](http://www.sema.org)

*Proud of dedicated service to the industry since 1963*

## **HB304\_Kabir\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Fazlul Kabir

Position: FAV

February 9, 2023

Dear members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

I am writing to you in favor of House Bill HB-304 – Modified Mufflers (Noise Abatement)  
Our residents have been complaining about loud noise caused by modified exhaust systems on our roadways.

For many of our residents, this has become a quality of life and a health issue. We have heard residents wake up from sleep because of these loud noises.

The City of College Park has paid police overtime to address the problem, and despite numerous citations, the problem persists. The City has also posted several signs on our roadways reminding motorists against such practices. It has become apparent that the current enforcement is insufficient to convince car owners to cease.

House Bill HB 304 will establish the Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program for local law enforcement agencies to purchase vehicle sound-measuring equipment noise cameras. This bill also establishes a maximum sound level limit for motor vehicles that the MVA may set.

Sincerely yours,

**Fazlul Kabir**

Council Member, District 1

301.659.6295

[fkabir@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:fkabir@collegeparkmd.gov)

[collegeparkmd.gov](http://collegeparkmd.gov)

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**CITY OF  
COLLEGE PARK**

**City Mission**

The City of College Park provides open and effective governance and excellent services that enhance the quality of life in our community.

# **HB304 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jenna O'Connell

Position: FAV



**Prince George's County Municipal Association**  
*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



**HOUSE BILL 304 – SUPPORT**  
**Environment & Transportation Committee**  
**February 7, 2023**

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes to **SUPPORT House Bill 304 - Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise 3 Abatement Devices** which would establish a Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of equipment to measure the sound level of a motor vehicle in operation on a highway. It would also establish a maximum sound level limit that the Motor Vehicle Administration may set for motor vehicles and would require the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2025, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Program.

The operation of a motor vehicle creates traffic noise which can be harmful to residents as well as the environment. High noise levels can have negative health implications for individuals residing nearby and on the roads when there is consistent exposure. According to the CDC, noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage your hearing and loud noise above 120 dB can cause immediate harm to your ears (National Center for Environmental Health, 2022). This bill would establish that maximum sound level limits are not to exceed 95 dB, for each type of new motor vehicle. In establishing such limits, the Administrator shall set the most restrictive level that, through the application of the best available technology at a reasonable cost, is consistent with attaining the environmental noise standards adopted by the Department of the Environment.

House Bill 304 sets the policies and funds in place to protect the health of Maryland's citizens and gives law enforcement the necessary guidelines to monitor sound levels of motor vehicles in operation on the highway. Therefore, PGCMA respectfully requests a **favorable** report for **House Bill 304**. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Wojahn".

---

Patrick Wojahn (He/Him/His)  
PGCMA President  
240-988-7763 (C)  
[President@ThePGCMA.com](mailto:President@ThePGCMA.com)

# **SafeRoadsMD ENT HB 304 Favorable Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

## HB 304

**“Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and  
Modification of Exhaust Systems  
and Noise Abatement Devices”**

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

# **MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 304**

February 7, 2023

TO:

Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Honorable Members of the Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair  
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*  
[JohnJSeng@gmail.com](mailto:JohnJSeng@gmail.com) (202) 468-7682  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>

My name is John Seng, volunteer Chair and founder of the *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.* (SafeRoadsMD).

Our 200+ member organization **strongly supports the enactment of HB 304, the ““Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices” bill.**

### **The Problem**

Excessive motor vehicle noise is fast becoming a leading public complaint made to Maryland State, county and municipal elected officials. It’s not only a matter of quality of life or irritation, but human healthcare.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that “loud noise can cause hearing loss quickly or over time:”

*Hearing loss can result from a single loud sound (like firecrackers) near your ear. Or, more often, hearing loss can result over time from damage caused by repeated exposures to loud sounds. The louder the sound, the shorter the amount of time it takes for hearing loss to occur. The longer the exposure, the greater the risk for hearing loss (especially when hearing protection is not used or there is not enough time for the ears to rest between exposures).*

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

**Noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage your hearing. Loud noise above 120 dB can cause immediate harm to your ears.**

SafeRoadsMD leadership has participated in multiple meetings with elected officials and Maryland Department of Transportation leadership over the past four years to lodge our communities' complaints with increasingly excessive noise from modified motor vehicles, including racing motorcycles. (See addendum).

Also, we consider that vehicles exhibiting excessive noise as a major symptom of illegal motor vehicle operation, primarily excessive speed.

### **Enacting HB 304**

We stand completely in favor of this bill because its provisions:

- Are more than reasonable, and with the limit of 95 decibels more than accommodating, since the CDC indicates that "noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage your hearing."
- Better equip law enforcement with an objective, scientifically valid measurement device to gauge excessive, illegal noise;
- Fund the procurement of the above measuring equipment;
- Increase the deterrents for illegal exhaust system modifications and escalating penalties for continued infractions;
- While not a cure-all, present significant steps in the right direction of deterring excessive, harmful sound.

SafeRoadsMD also agrees with the stipulation in HB 304 that historic motor vehicles should generally be exempt from this new law.

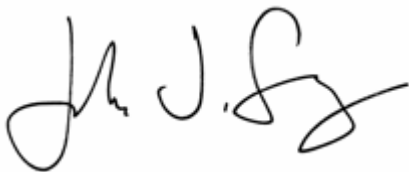
### **Background – SafeRoadsMD – Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.**

Our founding organizations include the *American Automobile Association (AAA) Mid-Atlantic*, the *Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA)*, *The Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee* in Prince George's County and a group of Maryland home owner associations. Alarmed by growing roadway violence in Maryland, we were established to call more attention to and combat the onslaught of speed and noise on our roads. The *Coalition* represents the interests of communities and individuals who directly suffer the consequences of illegal operation of motor vehicles.

### **You Can Do It!**

We thank you and the Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB 304.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng  
Chair

cc: Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA); SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors and membership Addendum

# Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety



## ZERO DEATHS MARYLAND EA Meeting

November 17, 2020

*Someone's  
gonna die!*

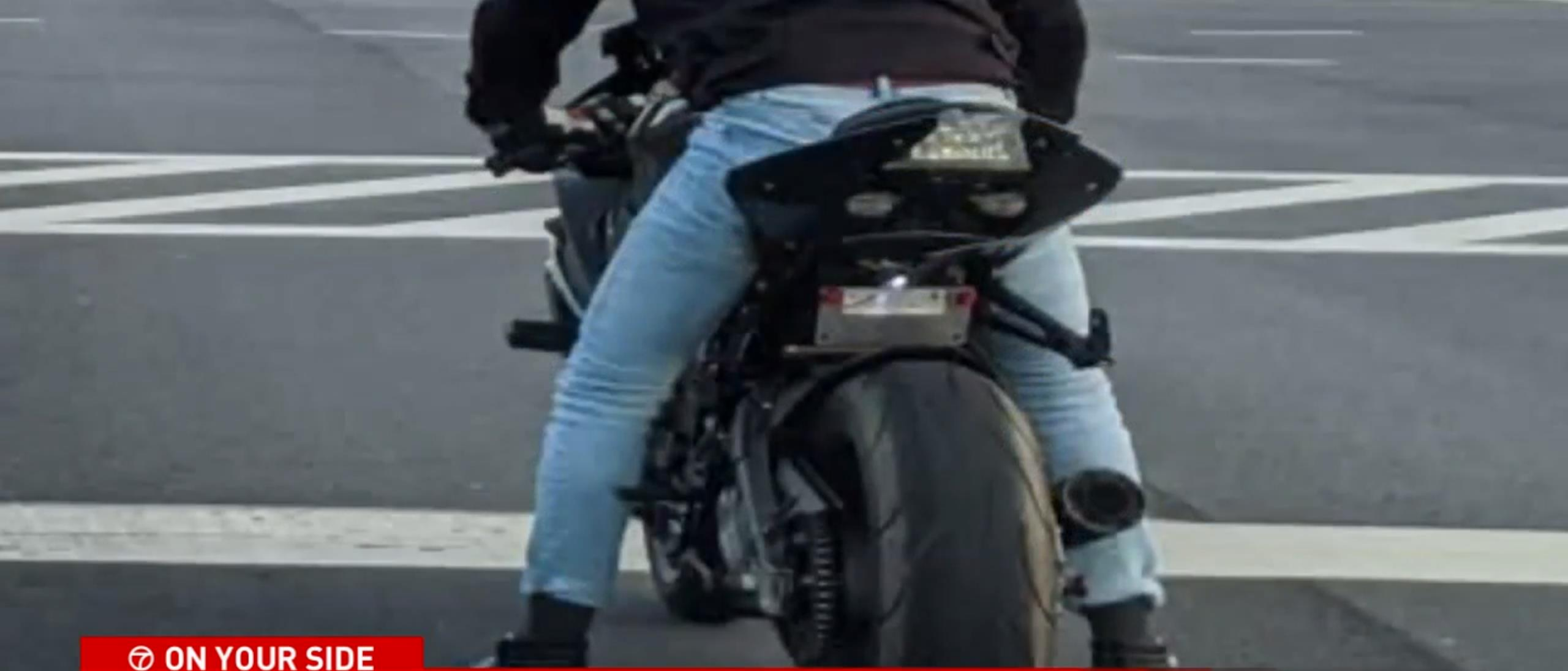





**WJLA-TV**  
WASHINGTON, DC

May 26, 2020

A live news broadcast featuring reporter Kevin Lewis. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a pink and white checkered shirt. The background shows an outdoor setting with a brick wall and greenery. A red 'LIVE' indicator is in the top right corner. A red banner at the bottom of the video frame reads 'ON YOUR SIDE'. Below that, a grey banner displays the reporter's name 'KEVIN LEWIS' and 'ABC 7 NEWS'. At the very bottom, a video player interface shows a play button, a full screen icon, a volume icon, a progress bar at 00:44 / 03:05, and icons for closed captions, share, grid, settings, and a link.



 ON YOUR SIDE

## RESIDENTS ALONG THE ICC 'BEYOND FRUSTRATED' WITH SPEEDING MOTORCYCLISTS

# What is *Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety*?

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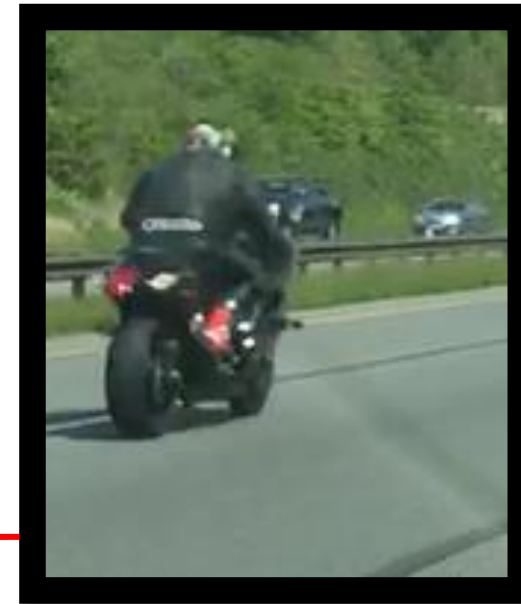
- Launched June 2020
- Today nearly 100 members
  - Mainly in Montgomery County, but branching across the State
- Founding organizations: *Greater Olney Civic Association* and *AAA Mid-Atlantic*
- *Tantallon Citizens Association* (Indian Head Highway) member
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>



# Our Take On The Problems



- Reckless driving (2-3x speed limit)
- Riding without ICC transponder
- Riding without license tags
- Excessive noise due to aftermarket vehicle equipment illegally installed



# How We Started



# Why We Exist



## *Goal*

Improve safety and reduce noise on Maryland roads.

## *Mission*

**Work collaboratively** with one another and with State of Maryland and local authorities in **advocating enhanced sanctions** for dangerous vehicle operation, **supporting the police** who patrol and safeguard our roads, **encouraging the courts to apply justice fairly and effectively** and **welcoming innovation in illegal behavior deterrence** via communications and technology.

# Our Take On The Problems Statewide

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- **Weak sanctions for violations**

1. 13-411 c 2: Failure to properly place registration plate to vehicle. (\$70.00 fine) Recommend legislative change to fine of up to \$500.00 for motorcycles.
  2. 21-809: Speed Monitoring Systems (\$40.00 civil fine) Recommend legislative change allowing for utilization statewide on highways for speed monitoring and enforcement of motorcycles regardless of school or construction zones. Fines would be consistent with current fine under 21-801.1.
  3. 21-901.1 a: Reckless driving (\$510.00) Recommend legislative change to enhance penalty to a must appear (MA) in court in front of judge with a fine \$1000.00 and 12 points for motorcycles
  4. 21-1116: Racing or participating in a speed contest (\$290.00 and 5 points) Recommend legislative change to enhance penalties to a must appear (MA) in court before a judge with fine of \$1000.00 and 12 points for motorcycles.
  5. 22-609 a: Modifying exhaust system on motor vehicle causing excessive noise emissions (\$70.00) Recommend legislative change to enhance penalties to \$500.00 for motorcycles.
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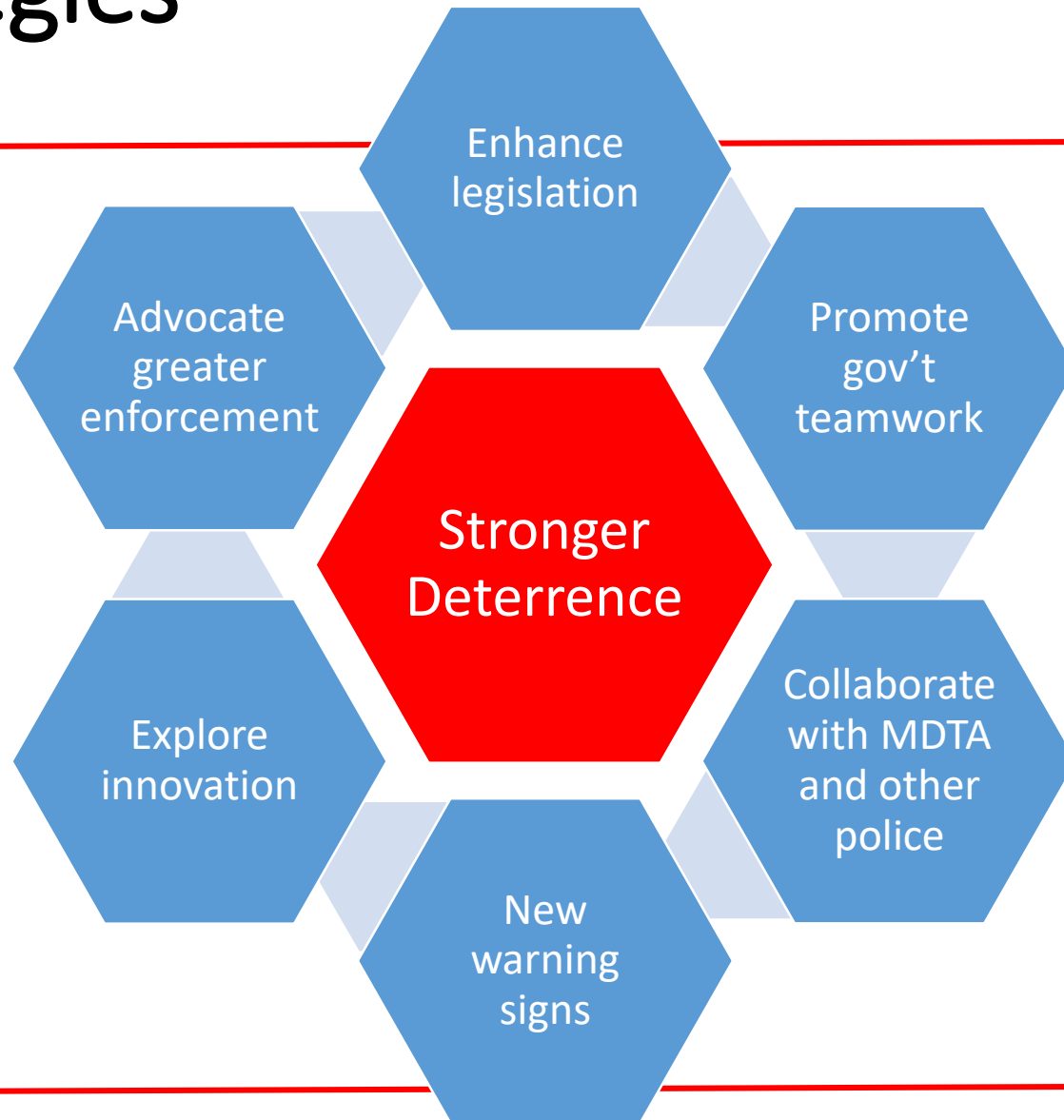
# Our Take On The Problems Statewide

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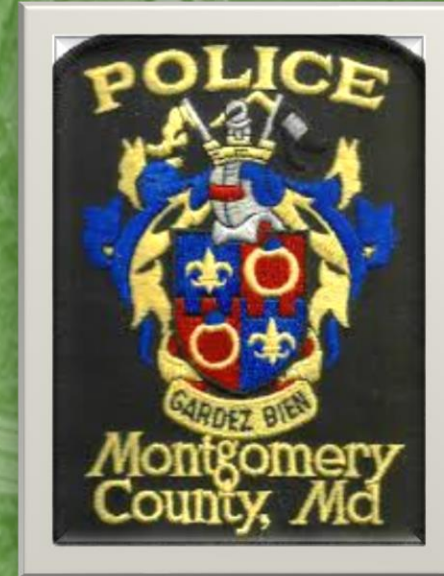
- Inadequate enforcement resources
  - For example, ICC traffic and revenues exceeding five year projections, but “expenses” held effectively static
- Newer and (possibly) current highway design and technologies unwittingly encourage speed
  - Toll booth-free roads remove control
- Lack of effective, outside-the-box blend of solutions



# Strategies



# Progress



## MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)



# Progress

- Outreach – The Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety is on the map, the radar, the scene



# Next Steps – It's All About Deterrence

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- Legislative
    - Continue to monitor legislative track of draft bill
    - Continue to recruit member organizations and individuals
    - Prepare to strongly lobby prior to and during session
  - Collect data
    - Work with MDTA and other departments
    - Gather our own “evidence”
  - Push for technology solutions (innovative use of drones)
  - Push for effective signage (electronic, stationary)
-

TRUCKERS

MODIFIED  
EXHAUST  
SYSTEMS  
PROHIBITED

TRANS. ARTICLE SECT. 22 - 609



# We Will Work With You to Achieve Our Goal

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- Thank you for your time and interest today, and for your continued work to improve Maryland roads safety.

**ZERO**  
**DEATHS**  
**MARYLAND**



John J. Seng [JohnJSeng@gmail.com](mailto:JohnJSeng@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>

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ICC NOISE!  
IT'S LOUD. *VERY LOUD.*

Presentation to MDTA

January 24, 2019

Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association

Rockville/Olney, MD

# To Mitigate Excessive ICC-200 Noise, We Propose:



1. MDTA commission and fund an independent sound study conducted in the field over an extended time to account for all noise-contributing factors.
  - MDTA commence design and construction of an adequate sound barrier/wall, based on results/outcome of the sound study.
2. MDTA report to Maryland citizens its effectiveness at enforcing 60MPH speed limit on the ICC.
3. MDTA report to BME the outcomes of the additional methods and technologies that MDTA police widely publicized they would undertake to mitigate speeding motorcyclists on the ICC.
4. MDTA report to Maryland citizens the State's effectiveness in enforcing State and Federal laws against unlawful tampering with motorcycle exhaust systems, as well as in-state and interstate sales of illegal aftermarket systems.



# Why Is ICC 200 Highway Noise Too Loud Today?

- Greater noise results from two problematic and concurrent issues
  1. Ongoing ambient noise is louder, due to increased road traffic volume, higher actual speeds, all aggravated by inclement weather
  2. Ever-frequent racing motorcycle episodes that increase dramatically on any “nice” day – noise is excruciating, disrupts daily living throughout entire 177-home community
- We are not scientists, but we know louder when we hear it. In every respect, the overall noise is worse today than ever.
- The previous noise studies were likely unrealistic and not future-facing; likely did not factor in greater actual vehicle speeds; and certainly not lawless, racing motorcycles.

# Brief Background



- *BME was told that ICC would run below terrain underneath Emory Lane...but this did not happen. Instead, SHA significantly raised Emory Lane via an elevated bridge (Which may now be causing flooding problems west of ICC overpass)*
- *Agreement to erect berms – May 2006...but berms are inadequate*
- *Screening wall (not sound barrier) agreed to by SHA following BME appeal December 2010*
- *We have discussed numerous times that the community was analyzed using the standard federal and state policies for highway construction and the community did not meet criteria for a sound barrier. While you have driven this section of the roadway and noted many locations where sound barriers were constructed, each community was analyzed using the same parameters. The policies were specifically created to ensure that each community was treated fairly and arbitrary decisions were not made on sound barriers. – Melinda Peters, April 22, 2011*
- *ICC Speed limit raised 55-60mph, based solely on MDTA speed and safety surveys. We're not aware that any ICC neighboring communities were consulted on sound impact. BME was certainly never consulted.*
- *Studies by MDTA that we can find only measure driver and potential driver satisfaction and road safety. This is a transient audience that pays less to use the ICC than residents pay in State and County taxes to live here full time.*
- *Trucks create additional noise while gearing up, gaining speed while entering ICC/200 and Georgia Ave; as well as when slowing down when exiting ICC/200*
- *In all ICC Project community planning meetings attended in past 15 years by BME residents, no one foresaw, predicted or accounted for the attraction of racing motorcyclists to the ICC and their impact.*

Gridlock

# ICC speed limit going up to 60 mph

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By **Mark Berman**

February 4, 2013

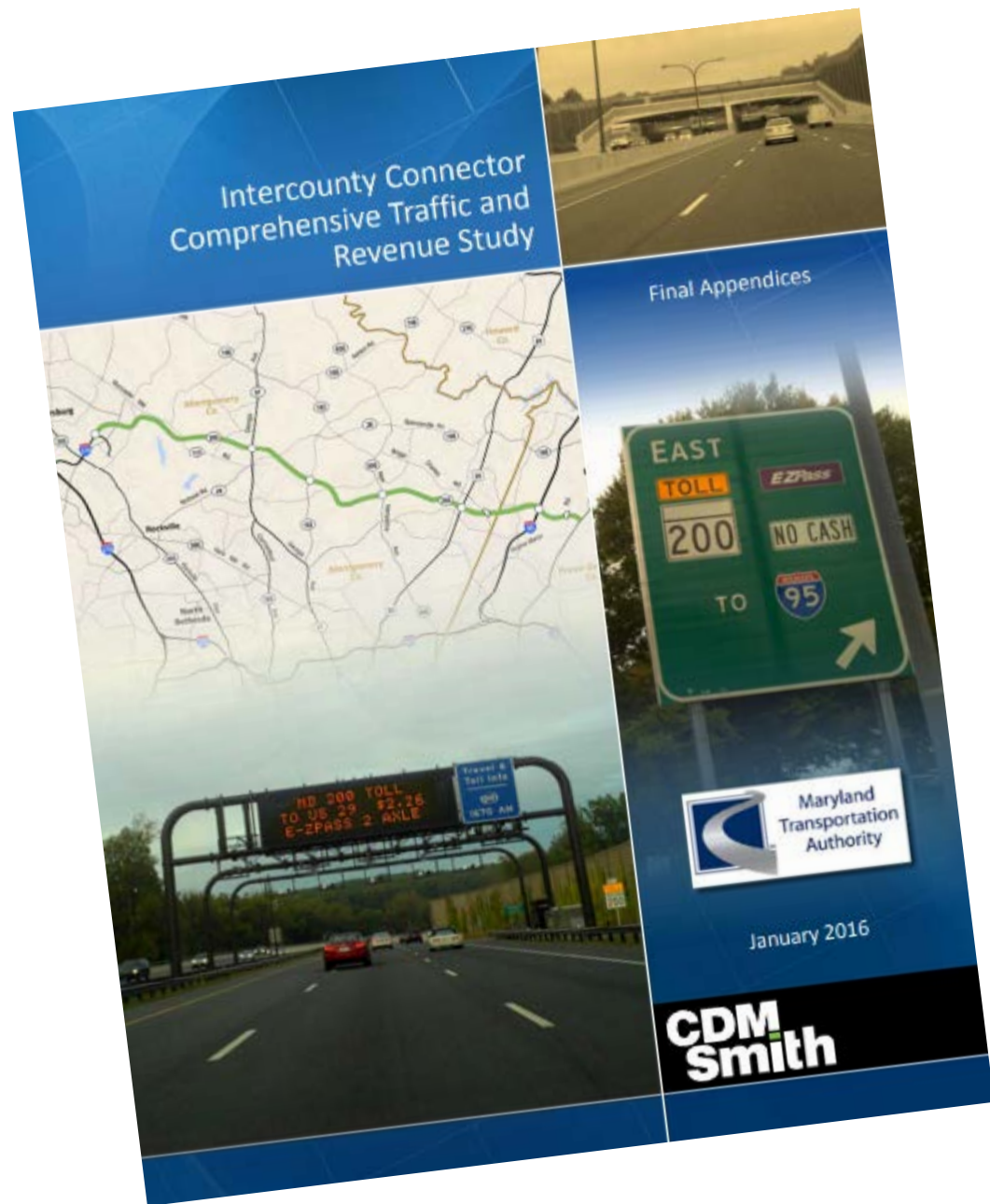


Traffic on the Intercounty Connector on Oct. 27, 2011 in Rockville, Md. (Mark Gail/The Washington Post)

Drivers have asked the state to consider raising the speed limit on the ICC since [it opened in 2011](#). Agency officials said Monday that an [engineering study](#) and a [crash analysis](#) confirmed that the speed limit can be raised safely.

“We are confident that a 60 mph speed limit is safe and justifiable based on the design speed and geometry of the roadway, as well as on the speed most motorists are comfortable traveling the ICC,” the authority’s executive secretary, Harold M. Bartlett, said in a statement.

The extra 5 mph isn’t going to cut a lot of time off ICC trips. With the speed limit increase, drivers traveling on the ICC from end to end could save about 1 1/2 minutes of travel time, according to the agency.



Studies like this one measure driver satisfaction, value of ICC, commuting time and so on...

We can't find a study that attempts to gauge the ICC's impact on neighboring homeowners.



# Current Issues – What We Know

- BME community of approximately 600 people is pressuring our HOA for relief from ICC noise
- Our real estate values threatened
- Our quality of life at risk
- The 60 mph “limit” is merely a reference point. Most people average 65-70mph on the ICC. 70mph is 27% greater speed than the original 55mph limit.



# MDTA Police Intentions & Response Were Good, But...Ineffective



WJLA  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC SPORTS 7 ON YOUR SIDE FEATURES CALL FOR ACTION CHIME IN ABOUT US

## MDTA cracks down on motorcycle racing on ICC in Maryland after incidents caught on camera

by Kevin Lewis/WJLA | Monday, July 16th 2018

The Maryland Transportation Authority is cracking down on motorcycle racing on the ICC after incidents were caught on camera. (Photo courtesy of ABC7/nowe)

OLNEY, Md. (WJLA) — The Maryland Transportation Authority is cracking down on motorcyclists treating the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 like a grand prix racetrack.

# Current Issues – What We Know, cont'd



- MDTA police report they are unable to safely address motorcycle speeding: “Nothing more we can do...”
- We know – and you know – that higher speeds significantly lead to higher dB levels

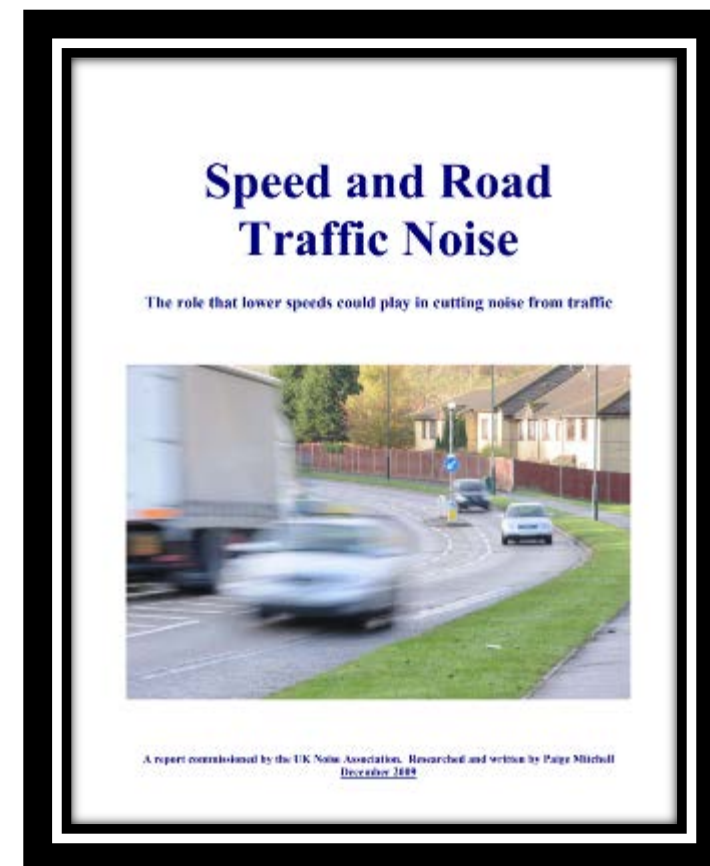




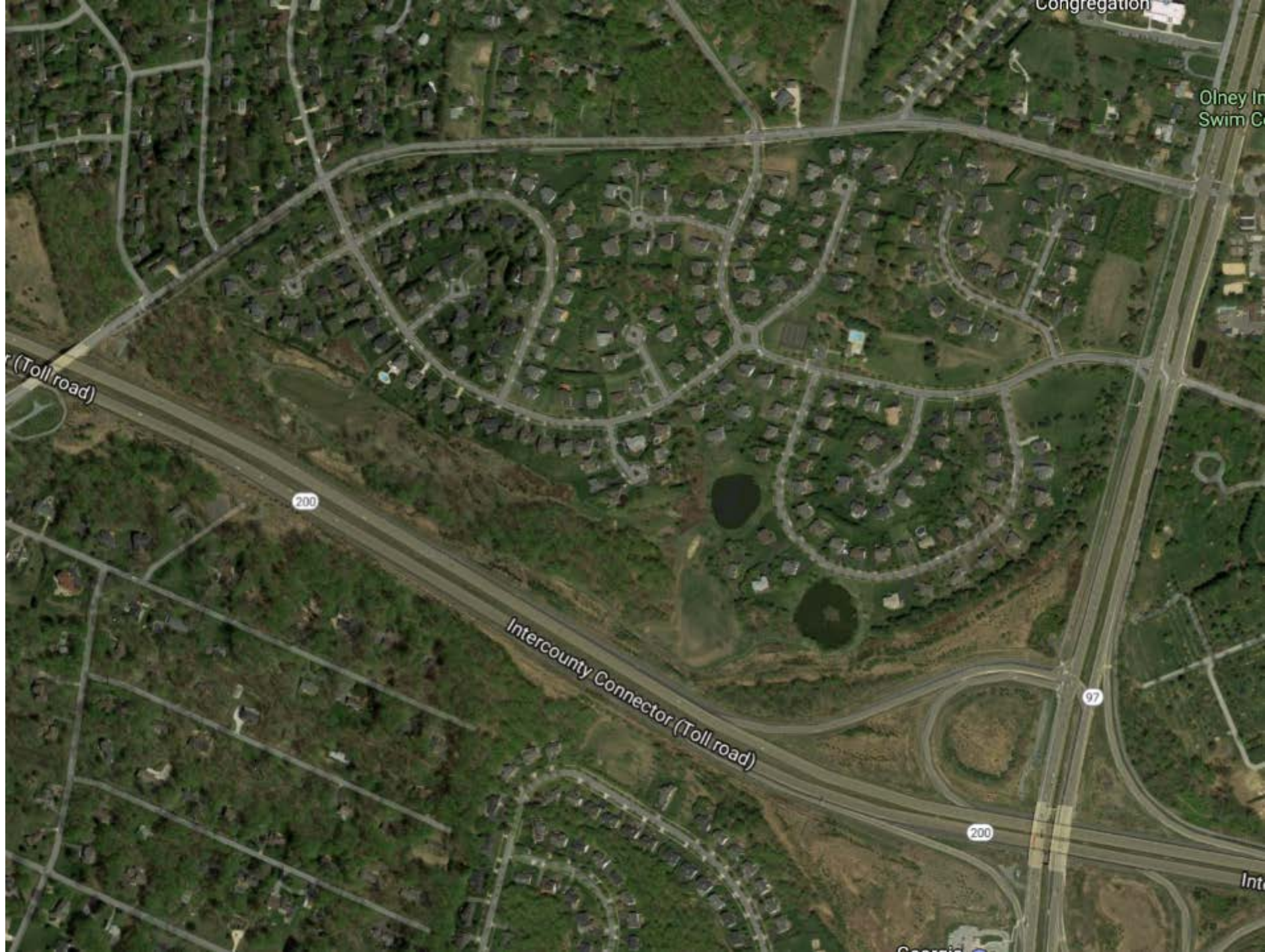
# What We've Learned

- *Cutting speeds is the most immediate, the most cost-effective and most equitable way of reducing traffic noise. In urban areas with speeds of between 30 and 60 kph per hour, reducing speeds by 10 kph per hour would cut noise levels by up to 40%. Reducing 70mph and 60mph speeds on urban motorways would cut noise by up to 50%.*

[http://www.ukna.org.uk/uploads/4/1/4/5/41458009/speed\\_and\\_road\\_traffic\\_noise.pdf](http://www.ukna.org.uk/uploads/4/1/4/5/41458009/speed_and_road_traffic_noise.pdf)

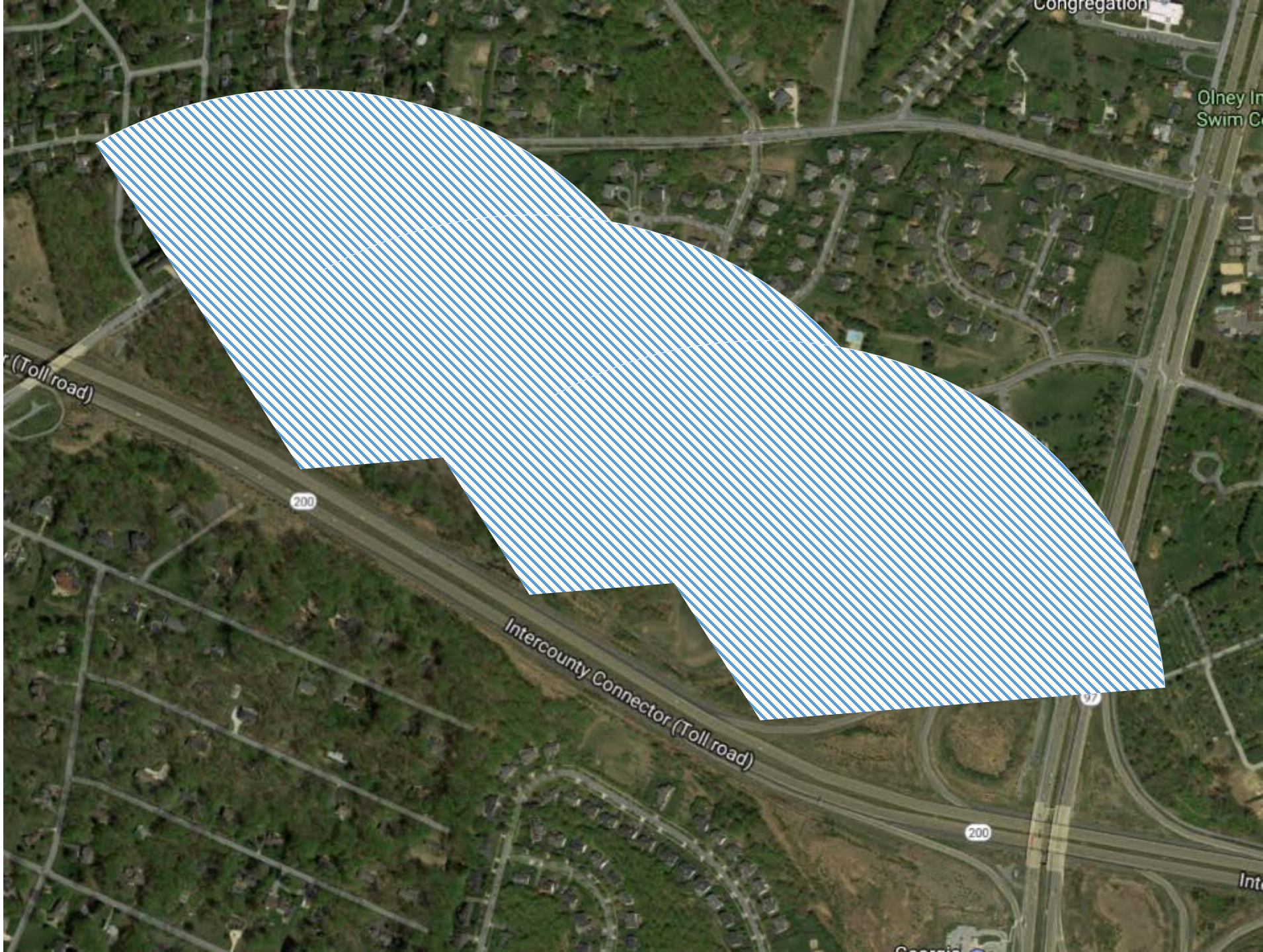


Average driver speeding by Brooke Manor at 65mph spends ~ 55 seconds traveling 0.9 mile



Average through driver 65mph spends ~ 50 seconds driving by 0.9 mile

24/7/365 days a year, we live here. Our families, old, middle-aged and young, need a break!



Leaving Home Later. Getting Home Earlier.  
That's What the ICC Means to Marylanders.

*And showing some respect to  
the people who live where  
you're driving through*

# Feedback and Discussion



- What will MDTA do to protect our community as ICC use by “all” increases?



# Thank You!

Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association  
Rockville/Olney, MD



# Addendum

- Related media coverage
  - **WJLA-TV 7** TV, online (used Brooke Manor Estates-provided footage)
  - <http://wjla.com/news/local/mdta-crack-down-racing-icc-md>
    - ...and on **YouTube** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIdV2No5HHs>
  - **WTOP** Print, radio, video <https://wtop.com/dc-transit/2018/07/its-a-public-threat-police-aim-to-curb-reckless-motorcycle-riders-on-icc/>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z2v4b1ANQY>  
[https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Police-to-Crack-Down-on-ICCs-Aggressive-Drivers\\_Washington-DC-488335931.html](https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Police-to-Crack-Down-on-ICCs-Aggressive-Drivers_Washington-DC-488335931.html)
- Contact:
  - Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association, Rockville, MD
  - Chair- Robert Zimmerman, [3837robert@gmail.com](mailto:3837robert@gmail.com) 302.604.8849
  - John Seng, [JohnJSeng@gmail.com](mailto:JohnJSeng@gmail.com) (202) 468-7682

# Brooke Manor residents say motorcycle noise deteriorating quality of life

by **Terri Hogan**  
Senior Staff Writer

The president of the Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association says motorcycles have turned the Intercounty Connector (ICC) into a dragstrip, impacting the quality of life for nearby residents.

"The problem has been growing for a couple of years now," Robert Zimmerman said. "When the road first opened, the speed limit was 55 and there wasn't a lot of traffic."

When the speed limit was raised to 60, the traffic and the noise increased, he said.

"It got bad last year and keeps getting worse," he said.

Zimmerman said good weather brings out

motorcycles and engines can be heard revving all night long.

"They drag race, weave in and out of traffic, and try to see just how fast they go," he said.

Brooke Manor Estates is located to the west of Georgia Avenue (Route 97) and north of the Intercounty Connector (Route 200).

Zimmerman said he reached out to the Maryland Transit Authority (MDTA) two months ago, but no one has responded to him.

The MDTA Police Department, which is responsible for policing toll roads, BWI/Thurgood Marshall Airport and the Port of Baltimore, held a news conference on July 16 after local media outlets reported on the problems of increased motorcycle speeding and noise on the ICC.

Cpl. Edward Bartlinski, commander of the

Media Relations & Community Outreach Section of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, acknowledged the department has received comments of motorcycles traveling at excessive speeds while driving on the ICC.

"We are implementing several strategies to curb this dangerous behavior," he said. "We have deployed unmarked and unconventional police vehicles to patrol the area at all hours of the day and night. Additionally, we are employing the technology we currently possess to track down these aggressive drivers and to charge them with violations of Maryland's motor vehicle laws."

Zimmerman is hopeful that increased enforcement and using technology will quiet the roar.

In the meantime, he said his community is also pursuing noise barriers.

"When the ICC was built, we were just under the noise limit that would have required noise barriers," Zimmerman said. "Now the terrain might not work, but it is something we are looking into."

Zimmerman said his neighbors don't build decks and those who have them do not use them.

"It has deteriorated our standard of living and changed the whole atmosphere of our community," he said. "And it's not just the noise, but it is dangerous. It's just a matter of time before there is an accident."

*Greater Olney News* July 25, 2018

# **HB304\_FAV-Transit Caucus**

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV



# MARYLAND TRANSIT CAUCUS

marylandtransitcaucus.org • @CaucusTransit  
transitcaucus@gmail.com

## Officers

Co-Chair: Senator Karen Lewis Young  
Co-Chair: Delegate Jared Solomon  
Vice Chair: Senator Arthur Ellis  
Vice Chair: Delegate Sheila Ruth  
Secretary: Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr  
At-Large Member: Delegate Marc Korman

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The more than 90 members of the Transit Caucus have voted to endorse HB 304 – Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices.

The Transit Caucus is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that supports a robust, equitable, modern, and effective transit network that serves all Marylanders. To that end, the Caucus is dedicated to advancing reliable and sustainable transportation options for Marylanders. This includes, but is not limited to, interconnected public transit, a transition to clean vehicles, alternatives (walking and biking), and the infrastructure to support these options as safe modes of transit. We believe that ensuring every Marylander has access to a variety of safe and reliable mobility options is a critical element of achieving an equitable, prosperous, and healthy state.

The Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Karen Lewis Young

Delegate Jared Solomon

## Members

Delegate Gabriel Acevero  
Delegate Nick Allen  
Delegate Carl Anderton  
Delegate Dalya Attar  
Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Delegate Heather Bagnall  
Delegate Sandy Bartlett  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Delegate Harry Bhandari  
Delegate Adrian Boafo  
Delegate Regina Boyce  
Delegate Tony Bridges  
Senator Jill P. Carter  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian  
Senator Paul Corderman  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield  
Delegate Debra Davis  
Delegate Eric Ebersole  
Delegate Mark Edelson  
Delegate Elizabeth Embry  
Delegate Kris Fair  
Senator Brian Feldman  
Delegate Jessica Feldmark  
Delegate Linda Foley  
Delegate Catherine Forbes  
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo  
Delegate Jeff Ghrist  
Senator Dawn Gile  
Delegate Brooke Grossman  
Delegate Michele Guyton  
Senator Guy Guzzone  
Delegate Kevin Harris  
Delegate Anne Healey  
Senator Shelly Hettleman  
Delegate Terri Hill  
Delegate Kevin Hornberger  
Delegate Carl Jackson  
Senator Michael Jackson  
Delegate Andre Johnson  
Delegate Dana Jones  
Senator Cheryl Kagan  
Delegate Anne Kaiser  
Delegate Aaron Kaufman  
Delegate Ariana Kelly  
Delegate Ken Kerr  
Senator Nancy King  
Delegate Mary Lehman  
Delegate Jazz Lewis  
Delegate Robbyn Lewis  
Delegate Jeffrie E. Long Jr.  
Delegate Lesley Lopez  
Delegate Sara Love  
Delegate Aletheia McCaskill  
Senator Cory McCray  
Senator Mike McKay  
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North  
Delegate David Moon  
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Delegate N. Scott Phillips  
Delegate Andrew Pruski  
Delegate Lily Qi  
Delegate Kirill Reznik  
Senator Jim Rosapepe  
Delegate Samuel Rosenberg  
Senator Johnny Ray Salling  
Delegate Emily Shetty  
Delegate Karen Simpson  
Delegate Stephanie Smith  
Delegate Dana Stein  
Delegate Vaughn Stewart  
Senator Charles Sydnor III  
Delegate Deni Taveras  
Delegate Kym Taylor  
Delegate Jen Terrasa  
Delegate Chris Tomlinson  
Delegate Kris Valderrama  
Delegate Joe Vogel  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
Senator Alonzo Washington  
Senator Mary Washington  
Delegate Courtney Watson  
Delegate Melissa Wells  
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins  
Delegate Nicole Williams  
Delegate Chao Wu  
Delegate Natalie Ziegler  
Senator Craig Zucker

# **hb0304 modified mufflers.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Coakley

Position: FAV

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee.

My name is Karen Coakley, President of the Beltsville Citizen's Association. I am a lifelong community activist, supporting 1<sup>st</sup> responders. I have served on the Prince George's County Wide Fire Chief's CAC with Chief Mark Bashor and represented my community on the local Police District CAC for over 20 years. Last year a spoke at hearings on Senator Beidle's bill SB612.

Over the past few years Street Racing and the NOISE from the Modified Mufflers have been in the top 5 complaints from residents of Beltsville. These issues were also repeatedly discussed at our District 6 Police CAC meetings over the past year and a half.

We have laws in place that set limits for noise from parties, music etc... at private residence and legitimate businesses. We have laws in place that restrict the hours of operation for landscaping companies. Yet the drivers of cars with Modified Mufflers are allowed to run the streets 24/7. It is bad enough when one Lone Wolf Driver is racing thru our neighborhoods disturbing our peace and tranquility. It is a thousand times worse when the Lone Wolves get together for one of their Racing Parties. I live a three blocks from Route 1 in Beltsville and 1 mile from the intersection of Route 1 and the Washington Beltway/ I-95. When the Lone Wolf or Wolf Pack is out I can hear them inside my house....even with the windows Closed! If my immediate neighbors and Legitimate Businesses can face fines and penalties for NOISE....then there should be consequences, penalties and fines for the drivers and owners of the cars with Illegal Modified Mufflers.

Why is Someone's Illegal Muffler Alterations more important than the Peace and Tranquility of Maryland Residence! Maryland Residents should be able to enjoy the Peace and Tranquility in their Homes.....They should not be subject to the constant ROAR from the Lone Wolf or the Wolf Pack Racing around Our Communities Gunning or Revving their car engines for entertainment.

Please Vote YES for Delegate Lehman's HB0304! Vote YES for Maryland Residents!

Karen Coakley

President Beltsville Citizens Association

4412 Tonquil Street

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

301-741-7672

karenmcoakley@gmail.com

# **HB304\_Mackie\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Maria Mackie

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I will be short and to the point. I would like to ask you to support HB304, Modified Mufflers (Noise Abatement) and move it forward. I know that this is a necessary step in making progress on reducing noise pollution, danger on our roads and highways and improving quality of life. This bill is important to our state and all Marylanders. Other states are looking to Maryland to lead on this nationwide crisis. As I sit writing this email, I can hear cars with loud mufflers on the small road I live on. I receive daily complaints about loud cars driving recklessly in my district on City, County and State roads. I believe this bill is bold and needs to be supported. We need to address this issue now. I hope you will do all that you can to get this legislation to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Maria Mackie  
Council Member, District 4  
City of College Park  
[mmackie@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:mmackie@collegeparkmd.gov)  
New Phone Number: 202-993-0395  
[www.collegeparkmd.gov](http://www.collegeparkmd.gov)

**HB 304 Modified Muffler WRITTEN TESTIMONY.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary Lehman

Position: FAV

DELEGATE MARY A. LEHMAN  
*Legislative District 21*  
Prince George's and  
Anne Arundel Counties

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 209  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3114 · 410-841-3114  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3114  
Mary.Lehman@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 304 – MOTOR VEHICLES – MODIFIED VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEM -  
PENALTIES  
SUPPORT**

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR BARVE, VICE CHAIR STEIN AND COLLEAGUES. I AM ASKING YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB 304. THIS BILL AMENDS A CURRENT STATUTE THAT PROHIBITS THE MODIFICATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEMS THAT INCREASE A VEHICLE'S NOISE ABOVE 95 DECIBELS.

THE 95 DECIBEL THRESHOLD **REPLACES** THE EXISTING NOISE STANDARD IN STATE LAW THAT SAYS A VEHICLE CANNOT BE MODIFIED IN A WAY THAT MAKES IT LOUDER THAN WHEN IT LEFT THE FACTORY. THAT STANDARD IS TOO DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE. HB 304 INCLUDES FINANCIAL PENALTIES FOR FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD VIOLATIONS OF THIS FLAT DECIBEL THRESHHOLD. IT EXEMPTS REGISTERED HISTORIC VEHICLES.

WE HEAR CONSISTENTLY FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT TO MEASURE VEHICLE NOISE. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, THE BILL CREATES A SMALL GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO PROPERLY MEASURE DECIBEL LEVELS EMITTED BY

VEHICLES AS THEY DRIVE. EQUIPMENT WOULD REDUCE WHAT IS CURRENTLY A SUBJECTIVE APPLICATION OF THE LAW IN WHICH MOST OFFICERS SAY THEY HAVE ENOUGH ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE TO DISCERN WHEN A VEHICLE IS TOO LOUD. FOR REFERENCE, A WHISPER IS 30 dB; NORMAL CONVERSATION IS 60 dB; AND A MOTORCYCLE ENGINE RUNNING IS ABOUT 95 dB. FOR VECHICLES EXCEEDING 95 dB, A POLICE OFFICER MAY ISSUE A “SAFETY EQUIPMENT REPAIR ORDER” SIMILAR TO A REPAIR ORDER FOR A BROKEN HEADLIGHT.

NOISE POLLUTION HAS BECOME AN AREA OF GREATER CONCERN IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF ITS HAZARDOUS EFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE. NOISE PRODUCED BY VEHICLES IS ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES OF NOISE POLLUTION AND HAS RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON THE ROAD.

THIS BILL REPRESENTS A SMALL STEP TOWARD REDUCING NOISE POLLUTION IN MARYLAND AND THE HEALTH HAZARDS OUR CONSTITUENTS EXPERIENCE WHEN VEHICLES GO ROARING THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY BURDENSOME FOR RESIDENTS WHO LIVE OR WORK NEAR BUSY ROADWAYS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I URGE A FAVORABLE REPORT.

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**HB 304 - MoCo\_Morningstar\_FAV (GA 23).pdf**

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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**HB 304**

**DATE: February 9, 2023**

**SPONSOR: Delegates Lehman, *et al.***

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)**

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### **Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices**

House Bill 304 would make it illegal to operate a motor vehicle that exceeds 95 decibels (with exceptions for registered historic vehicles and registered hot rod vehicles) and to authorize a police officer to issue a \$200 traffic ticket to the offending driver for a first violation (increasing to \$400 for the third offense and beyond) in addition to a mandatory safety equipment repair order. Further, the bill would provide that starting in fiscal year 2025, the Governor must include \$2 million in the budget for a grant program to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of motor vehicle sound detection equipment. Montgomery County Department of Police supports this legislation.

Vehicle exhaust noise complaints and growing numbers of street racing events on State and county roadways have continued to challenge local law enforcement agencies. These occurrences pose a traffic safety risk and affect residents' quality of life. With increased fines to discourage vehicle owners from purposefully changing their vehicles' exhaust systems, combined with new technology to enforce noise abatement on our roadways, House Bill 304 provides a pathway that may help the State to move toward quieter neighborhoods for all.

The Montgomery County Department of Police supports House Bill 304 and urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report.

# **Barve HB0304- Motor Vehicles - Noise Limits and Mo**

Uploaded by: Stephanie Anderson

Position: FAV



# CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

February 6, 2023

## MAYOR

Patrick L. Wojahn

pwojahn@collegeparkmd.gov  
240.988.7763

## DISTRICT 1

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Susan Whitney

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## DISTRICT 3

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John B. Rigg

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## DISTRICT 4

Maria E. Mackie

mmackie@collegeparkmd.gov  
240.472.0681

Denise Mitchell

dmitchell@collegeparkmd.gov  
301.852.8126

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### Re: HB0304 Motor Vehicles - Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The College Park City Council voted unanimously during our meeting on January 31, 2023 to support HB0304 to establish the Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program. This important initiative will help equip local law enforcement to measure the sound level of motor vehicles, and will establish a maximum sound level limit that the Motor Vehicle Administration may set. Current laws and available equipment make enforcement difficult for this disruptive problem.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Wojahn".

Patrick Wojahn  
Mayor

cc: 21st District Delegation

## **HB304\_Whitney\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Susan WHITNEY

Position: FAV

February 8, 2023

Esteemed Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing to express my support for HB304, *Motor Vehicles - Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices*. As a member of the College Park City Council representing District 2, I am eager to have as many tools as possible to address what has become one of the biggest disturbances to quality of life in our area. We have posted signs informing the public of laws against modified mufflers. We have requested and received increased enforcement of those laws by our Contract Police Officers. Still, the issue persists.

When I was campaigning in 2021, noisy cars was a common complaint. Last year, one resident appeared before the Council saying he was at his wits' end. He was near a main thoroughfare and was increasingly having difficulty sleeping through the night. He begged us to do something to help. While passage of SB229 allowing municipalities to employ noise abatement devices is crucial, efforts to use that tool would be hampered without defining noise limits and providing the funding local law enforcement agencies need to purchase the much-needed devices

Thank you for putting this legislation forward. Employing noise abatement technology will allow us to continue to disincentivize the choices too many motorists continue to make.

Respectfully,

Susan Whitney

City Councilmember

District 2

College Park, MD

[swhitney@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:swhitney@collegeparkmd.gov)

(202) 603-3634

Pronouns: she/her/hers

# **PG County Council\_HB304\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Thomas Dernoga

Position: FAV



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 304**

**Motor Vehicles-Noise Limit and Modification of  
Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices**

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT

HB 304 establishes the Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of vehicle sound measuring equipment. Grants can be used to purchase hardware or software equipment to measure the sound level of a motor vehicle in operation. The bill imposes a mandate of \$2 million each year starting in Fiscal Year 2025 and requires the Administrator, after a public hearing and endorsement of the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Environment, to establish a maximum sound level limit of 95 decibels for the operation of motor vehicles or a combination of vehicles. Additionally, it prohibits a person from driving on any highway with a modified exhaust system or noise abatement device and if convicted it increases the fines for the violation.

Current law only carries a \$70.00 fine for unlawfully modifying an exhaust system or noise abatement device on a vehicle. Under the current legislation, if convicted the fines will increase as follows: \$200 for 1<sup>st</sup> offense; \$300 for 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, and \$400 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses but exempts historical motor vehicles, a historic truck, tractor, or a motor home registered, and street repair order.

Prince George's County Council supports HB 304 because it will help local government agencies purchase the proper vehicle sound measuring equipment to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe from the exceedingly loud noise that modified exhaust systems and noise abatement devices make and it will set the sound level limit of 95 decibels. In the last few years, Prince George's County has experienced an increase in vehicles that have modified their exhaust systems or noise abatement devices which have caused concerns about the quality of life for residents and have created a major disturbance in our county. For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 304 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Ramirez Group, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council.

**HB304Prince George's County Council\_FAV 2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Victor Ramirez

Position: FAV



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 304**

**Motor Vehicles-Noise Limit and Modification of  
Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices**

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT

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Prepared by: Ramirez Group, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council.

# **HB304-ModifiedExhaust\_KEaton-UnFavorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ken Eaton

Position: UNF



# ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

*Dedicated to Freedom of the Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation*

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Director, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: February 6, 2023

Re: **HB 304** - Motor Vehicles - Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices

Position: **UNFAVORABLE: DOES NOT SUPPORT**

I am a motorcyclist, backyard car enthusiast (shade tree mechanic), a coastal / civil engineer, a farmer, a registered voter, and a member of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., the largest motorcyclist rights organization in the state of Maryland. I personally own multiple vehicles of all types. At the farm, I have motorcycles (historic and late model), trucks, cars, tractors, trailers, etc. ABATE represents the approximately 121,000 on road motorcycles that are registered in Maryland. We have chapters throughout the state and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We **DO NOT SUPPORT HB304.**

Legislation very similar to this was passed in New York state. It was started as a “Pilot Program”. Even though there were numerous problems with configuration of the equipment, court cases contesting the conditions in which the testing was performed, and the inability to distinguish between two vehicles running side by side (Example: a truck with a “Jake Brake” and a motorcycle), the state converted this pilot program into law. There are numerous lawsuits clogging the judicial system due to all of the problems. Our friends in ABATE of New York have been keeping us apprised of the situation.

There are already laws on the books that cover excessive noise (MD Trans Article 21 sec 1117 para. d), driving a vehicle in a race or speed contest (MD Trans Article 21 sec 1116 para. a) in addition to cut-off exhausts, using device on motor vehicle (exhaust, tail pipe) extension causing excessive noise (MD Trans. Code 22 sec. 402, par. b), speeding, reckless driving, and negligent driving traffic violations. It seems as though this may be more of an enforcement issue than an issue that requires additional legislation.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **DOES NOT SUPPORT HB 304** - Motor Vehicles - Modified Vehicle Exhaust System - Penalties. We urge the committee to consider an **UnFavorable** vote.

Thank you!

Kenneth B. Eaton, Executive Director  
**ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**

71 Franklin Street | PO Box 1733 | Annapolis, MD 21404

(410) 263-9185 | [www.abateofmd.org](http://www.abateofmd.org)

**Delegate Mary Lehman- Legislation- HB0304.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph Gomes VP-CCA/PGC

Position: INFO

Maryland Government Politics/ Policy (Mary Lehman – Delegate)

Legislation - HB0304 (maryland.gov): [Legislation - HB0304 \(maryland.gov\)](https://legis.maryland.gov/legislation/article.aspx?article=hb0304)

Enough is enough. Communities need noise limits on vehicles especially on modified exhaust systems on vehicles and law enforcement needs noise abatement systems to enforce the noise limits. We cannot take it anymore. Please help our community and all communities in the state of Maryland. HB0304 will improve the quality of life in our community, in other communities and for all Maryland residents. Giving law enforcement tools to help with this very loud problem will be a tremendous step forward. Many jurisdictions have noise ordinances where a loud noise cannot be heard 50 feet from source and cannot be heard during certain hours of the day. Yet, these vehicles with modified exhaust systems can be heard for blocks away. Please vote yes on HB0304 and give us the opportunity to sit on our porches, talk to our neighbors and drive down the road without thinking that a Mack truck or a tank is going to run over top of us. Please give us peace.

**VP Joseph Gomes (PGC)**

**Calverton Citizens Association**

**Beltsville, Maryland**