

February 23, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 431 – Prince George’s County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) PG 303-23

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 431 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 431 increases the fine associated with a speed camera violation on Maryland 210 based on the speed of the vehicle at the time of violation and whether it is a repeat violation. Currently, Maryland statute limits the fines associated with a speed camera violation to \$40 per violation, regardless of the vehicle’s speed or number of offenses.

The 13-mile corridor of MD 210 has a fatal crash rate that is significantly higher than the Statewide average for State-maintained highways. To improve safety for all users, MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) is identifying and constructing safety improvements across the State. Significant projects in Prince George’s County include the Kirby Hill interchange that was finished in 2022 and the future grade-separation that will be built at the interchange of MD 210 and Palmer/Livingston Road. SHA is continually assessing and improving the signals and signs along the corridor. SHA also collaborates with local stakeholders quarterly to discuss safety concerns and potential countermeasures, including an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity projects.

The Prince George’s County Police Department (PGPD) patrols MD 210 and administers the County’s speed monitoring program. Representatives from the PGPD participate in regular discussions with SHA, community members, and elected officials regarding safety along the corridor. During those discussions, the PGPD informed SHA that repeat speed offenders and those traveling more than 30 miles per hour over the posted speed limit are a major concern. These offenders are currently only receiving a \$40 fine for each violation, with no other civil penalty such as points on their driver’s license.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 431.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Baldwin
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Services
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-310-1056

Pilar Helm
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-841-1090