

Chairman Barve and Committee Members,

I am Ron Weiss, a resident of Fort Washington, a member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, and a frequent user of MD 210, our "Main Street".

I am here today to urge your support of HB 431 and HB 435.

We are here today because:

10 people were killed in traffic violence on Maryland 210 last year.

Nearly 90 people have been killed on MD 210 since 2007.

Maryland 210 is the deadliest roadway per mile in Prince George's, in Maryland, and in the DC Metro region.

Of the four major roads I traveled to testify, MD 210, I-495, US 50, and Rowe, 210 was the most dangerous.

The existing 3 MD 210 speed cameras have been effective in slowing traffic according to police.

They have been effective with drivers who act their age and just need a nudge to slow down.

They have been in-effective with drivers who act younger than the age they were when they got their driver's license.

This small percentage of the nearly 80,000 drivers who travel 210 on an average day, drive at deadly speeds. One at 168 MPH. In the 8-month period April through November 2022, 684 drivers were clocked at 90 MPH and above on MD 210. 320 of them drove at 100 MPH and above. One of them drove at 168 MPH.

These reckless drivers take advantage of the low \$40 speed camera fine and the many stretches of MD 210 that they use as drag strips or racetracks.

These bills target those reckless drivers by increasing fines for higher speeds and multiple violations. And adding more cameras will eliminate the 210 stretches that lack enforcement.

I want skeptics to know that the MD 210 speed cameras don't generate income, the speeders generate income. If they did not speed, there would be no income. What income speeders generate goes to improve MD 210 safety.

Speed cameras are not "silver bullets". Police enforcement is required to enforce DUI, seatbelt use, and distracted driving. But speed cameras are on the job 24/7/365, they are unbiased, and they don't put lives at risk as in a traffic stop.

In closing, please keep those 10 people who died last year and the scores of others who died before them on Maryland 210 in your prayers. But also take action to stop the killing and pass HB 431m and HB 435.

Thank you.

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