

Letters to Senators 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Rev. Dr. Robert Screen

Position: FAV

March 23, 2023

Dear Senators,

My name is Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen Sr., facilitator and creator of the 210 Traffic Safety Committee of Southern Prince George's County covering areas of Forest Heights, Fort Washington, and Accokeek Maryland.

I am a forty-five year resident of both Fort Washington and Accokeek communities and I submit this written testimony to request your urgent support of Bill HB-435 that will increase the number of speed cameras to 6 along the Indian Head Highway corridor.

As a forty-five year resident and leader of the 210 Traffic Safety Committee, I have personally witnessed the continuing decline in traffic and road safety along this beleaguered highway, which in the year 2017 the AAA Mid-Atlantic Traffic Safety Organization designated 210 Indian Head Highway as the "Highway of Death".

From the 15 year inclusive years from 2007 through 2022, 89 lives have been lost on a 14.3 mile span of highway, which includes the full one-way length of highway in Prince George's County. Last year alone, 10 lives were lost on this highway where speeding and reckless driving are common place. Speeds have been recorded at 168 mph, with speeds over 160 mph not uncommon.

The last collection of reported data we've retrieved from Automated Enforcement Division of Prince George's County, the months of April through November of 2022, showed over 684 recorded speed infractions over 90 mph and above.

With diminished Prince George's County Police cruiser presence, and **NO** enforcement presence from the Maryland State Troopers on this Maryland State Road, the current 3 speed cameras are the only 24/7 speed enforcement element this beleaguered community can rely upon for some semblance of consistent speed enforcement.

The community's desire for 10 cameras has been reduced to 6; I once again urgently request you to pass this Bill to help this **in need** community!

Respectfully Yours,

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen Sr.

Facilitator 210 Traffic Safety Committee

Ron Weiss Testimony to JPR in Favor of HB 435.pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Testimony In Favor of HB 435

Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee Hearing, March 29, 2023

Ron Weiss
12511 Haxall Ct.
Fort Washington, MD 20744

March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am Ron Weiss of Fort Washington asking for your favorable report on HB 435.

Thanks to your Committee, the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and years of passionate effort by Del. Valderrama and the residents of southern Prince George's County, we are saving lives on Maryland Route 210. We now have three speed cameras and most drivers have taken notice and slowed down.

Sadly however, some drivers are taking advantage of the long segments without speed cameras on the 13-mile Prince George's portion of MD 210 south of the Beltway by driving fast and furious. On average, 3 vehicles a day were clocked at 90 MPH or more during April through November 2022. Nearly half of those reckless speeders were doing 100 MPH or more where the speed limit is 55 MPH. Our goals are to hold those reckless drivers accountable and to change their behavior.

We are asking for the ability to use up to 6 cameras so we can adequately cover MD 210 south of the Beltway with camera enforcement and to extend the sunset of your authorization an additional 5 years to September 30, 2028.

We are working with MDOT/SHA, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory, and Prince George's County Police to make 210 safer so everyone gets home. While only speeders pay for the speed cameras, our goal is to change driver behavior so no one is cited for excessive speed. We don't have enough public safety staff to adequately enforce traffic on MD 210, so we are using data to optimize speed camera locations to where the worst speeding and crashes occur. Traffic flowing at a reasonable speed will result in fewer crashes and fewer deadly crashes.

Please help save lives on MD 210 with a favorable report on HB 435.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald A. Weiss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

HB0435 - SHA - MD 210 - PG 304-23 - LOI_FINAL_CO.p

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 29, 2023

The Honorable William Smith Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 435 – Prince George’s County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) PG 304-23

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 435 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 435 increases the number of automatic speed enforcement cameras authorized on MD 210 from three cameras to six cameras.

Several years ago, the Maryland General Assembly authorized speed cameras on MD 210 in response to the high number of serious crashes and fatalities caused by speeding vehicles on the corridor. The MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) permits the installation of cameras within SHA right-of-way. The location of cameras is selected by the county police department, their installation is permitted by SHA if they meet requirements, then the county’s vendor installs the camera and associated signs within SHA’s right-of-way.

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, 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. The SHA is continually assessing and improving the signals and signs along the corridor. The 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 of concern.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 435.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Baldwin
Acting Deputy Director
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Maryland State Highway Administration
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Pilar Helm
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
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