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Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

March 29, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 849 – School Bus Stops – Violations – Enforcement and Safety Measures

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 849 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 849 would require law enforcement to issue warnings for first time offenses, and certain second offenses, related to automated school bus monitoring violations issued to vehicles traveling in the opposite direction on an undivided road with four or more lanes. House Bill 849 would also require MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) to identify high incidence locations for school bus camera violations and develop a feasibility study and plan for constructing highway medians at these locations. The SHA would submit a report to various stakeholders, including the Montgomery County delegation, by December 31, 2023.

The SHA does not currently participate in Montgomery County’s school bus monitoring program and does not have access to violation data. For SHA to meet the requirements of House Bill 849, law enforcement would need to share the relevant data with SHA. In addition, SHA will need a clear definition of “high incidence” locations and respectfully requests specific parameters on how to quantify this information.

House Bill 849 does not require SHA to construct medians at high incidence locations; however, if required to do so, there would be significant right-of-way needs along these corridors. This may require land acquisition or removal of existing travel lanes, which may impact traffic patterns.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 849.

Respectfully submitted,

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