
March 7, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1369 - Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector)

Dear Chair Korman and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) offers the following information on House Bill 1369 for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 1369 authorizes the placement and use by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) of a certain number of speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector) in Montgomery County; and generally relating to the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector) in Montgomery County.

House Bill 1369, as drafted, is not a violation of MDTA's Trust Agreement because the installation of the speed monitoring devices is permissive and not mandatory, leaving MDTA the legal and financial discretion to implement the systems. However, the legislation does establish a new precedent for authorizing the placement of speed monitoring systems on other MDTA roadways. Additionally, the MDTA would like to ensure the agency has full discretion in deciding what type of speed monitoring systems can be procured and operated.

To operate the speed monitoring program as called for in the proposed legislation, the MDTA would need to hire additional staff or procure a vendor to provide these services as the MDTA does not operate a system for similar services. House Bill 1369 also indicates that a person receiving a citation may pay the civil penalty to the MDTA or the District Court. The MDTA would appreciate clarification regarding the speed camera penalties, since under other speed camera programs enumerated in law, the penalties must be remitted to the State. The MDTA would be interested in exploring the possibility of retaining the penalty fees in order to defray system costs.

The estimated cost for MDTA to implement an Automated Speed Enforcement program is \$7.6M over a 6-year period. MDTA estimated the annual costs for camera deployments and vendor services by using an existing ASE program as a basis. Please note that the SHA program does allow for significantly more camera deployments than the proposed legislation for the ICC, so MDTA's program costs may be higher.

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Like members of the Committee, the MDTA is concerned about speeding and aggressive driving on its roadways. The MDTA Police are committed to speed enforcement on the ICC and all its facilities. The MDTA Police have initiated previous efforts and will continue to initiate efforts to enforce traffic violations on the ICC, such as high visibility enforcement (HVE) campaigns.

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1369.

Respectfully submitted,

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