



**SafeRoadsMD**

**HB 1369**  
**“Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector)”**  
**PLEASE SUPPORT**

## **MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.**

# **URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 1369**

March 5, 2024

TO:  
Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Honorable Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:  
John J. Seng, Chair  
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*  
[JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org](mailto:JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org) [SafeRoadsMD.org](http://SafeRoadsMD.org) (202) 468-7682

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of HB 1369 (MC 11-24), the “Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector)” bill.**

**We respectfully request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to combat increasingly persistent driver speeding on the MD 200 Intercounty Connector.**



The warmer weather this past weekend brought back the hordes of speeding motorcyclists and tragically...blood spilled once again on this nearly 19-mile highway.

These crashes most often result from excessively high speeds that not only imperil the operators but other motorists, as well as place first responders in harm’s way and delaying by hours the flow of traffic for thousands of east and westbound drivers.

And, at what cost to taxpayers? All because too many people abuse this road as their personal playground.

The Intercounty Connector has earned a MD/DC/VA/PA reputation as a speedway with a smooth track surface and low likelihood of enforcement for motorcyclists who are addicted to speed.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

One may ask, how will four speed monitoring devices on the ICC deter motorcycle speeding? The answer: 1) by lowering overall vehicle speeding, the ICC evolves as somewhat less attractive to criminal speeders; and 2) by “forcing” criminal motorcyclists to illegally conceal their plates. Those who forget to hide their license plates will receive at least a citation and potentially face arrest if their higher speeds violate other new higher-speeding and reckless driving Maryland laws.

From a data standpoint, overall, the ICC experienced:

- Drivers average between 70-72 mph on this *60mph speed limit* road, meaning that approximately half of drivers already speed in excess of the 12mph threshold for an electronic citation. It’s too dangerous.
- **Increased crashes in four out of five years 2018-2022**, with more than 50 % of total crashes over the five-year period occurring in the two most recent years, 2021 and 2022.
- While 2018 and 2019 averaged 85 annual crashes, in stark contrast, 2021 and 2022 averaged 134 annual crashes, an **increase of 49 crashes annually in these two years, a 57% spike in ICC crashes annually**.
- The Maryland Transportation Authority reported 7 fatalities resulting from crashes in the past three years of available data (20, 21, 22).
- Average reportable crashes per million miles annually on the ICC increased by 12.4 incidents from 26.8 in 2018 to 39.2 in 2021, an increase of 46% from the baseline. Note: The increase cannot be attributed to increased volume, given the control of “per million miles.”

**This data provides solid evidence that crash rates per ICC vehicle mile climbed steadily, year after year, over the four-year period.** With crashes of all kinds on the rise, what can be done? Increasing police patrols may work, but may not be a viable option. As with police districts in Maryland and nationally, MDTA Police currently face significant difficulties in recruiting, SafeRoadsMD has learned. MDTA Police place necessarily higher priorities on addressing felonies.

**Finally, we appreciate the Montgomery County Delegation’s passage of MC 11-24.**

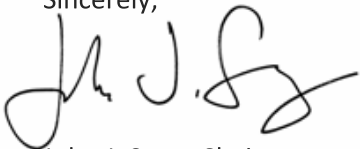
### **Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!**

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and taking action to increase safety on our roads.

As we’ve shared with the ENT Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with ENT’s leadership in the House, could boldly take a preeminent role during this 2024 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that road safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing’s left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority?**

We thank you both and the ENT Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB 1369.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng, Chair

cc: Governor Wes Moore, Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic, SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors  
Attachments – 3-3-24 MD 200 ICC crash aerial images. **CAUTION – Some photos may be disturbing.**



MD 200 Intercounty  
Connector fatal motorcycle  
crash, 3-3-2024

Photos credit:  
Tim Pruss, MyDrone.Pro  
@MyDronePro

