
February 8, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 540 – Education – School Bus Stops – Prohibited Locations

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on House Bill 540 for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 540 prohibits, for a local jurisdiction where use of school bus monitoring cameras is authorized, the location of a school bus stop on any highway with five or more undivided traffic lanes unless 1) a school crossing guard is posted at the stop to assist students in crossing the highway or 2) a traffic control device that maintains a red signal while a student is boarding or exiting the school bus is placed at the stop.

While House Bill 540 does not require SHA to add new signals at the impacted bus stops located on State highways, SHA notes that the type of signal proposed is similar in cost to a new traffic signal. New traffic signals cost approximately \$250,000 per signal to implement, with an increased cost for more complex locations.

SHA considers multiple factors when adding new traffic control devices on State roads, including congestion, traffic diversion to roads not designed to accommodate increased traffic volumes, and safety. For example, traffic signals that primarily flash and only activate once or twice per day may hurt overall compliance, can lead to an increase in crash activity, and would require additional infrastructure to effectively support pedestrian activity and safety.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 540.

Sincerely,

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