

# **Testimony for Passing HB 974 from TNACA - Delegate**

Uploaded by: Herbert Jones

Position: FAV

February 17, 2024

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman,  
Chair Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Pass HB 974

Dear Delegate Korman,

On October 9, 2022, my family had the unfortunate experience to witness an accident at the intersection of Palmer Road and Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) on a clear Sunday morning at 11:30am. A white hybrid vehicle was speeding through the intersection of a red light and struck two vehicles making turns onto Indian Head Highway (Rt.210). Everyone lived, but my car would have been the third car entering that intersection, but I paused on the accelerator because my wife screamed WAIT! STOP! If my wife did not scream out in terror, this could have been a tragic story including my family. Our family of course got out of our car immediately to help all of the victims, where we could until the police and the ambulance arrived. My initial thought was what could we, as a community have done to prevent this accident in the middle of this beautiful sunny day.

Our community members face the challenges of reckless drivers on a daily basis. The members Tantallon North Area Civic Association (TNACA), located east of Fort Washington Road and Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210), have a vested interest in Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) and have communicated to our leadership on numerous occasions asking what can be done about the speeding and the careless drivers, who traumatize our citizens that need to commute on Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210). On a daily basis, our community has observed drivers speeding along the emergency shoulders, weaving in and out of traffic, and of course, zooming past us at speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour. We call drivers like these terrorists in the sense that many of our citizens have opted not to even drive Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) if at all possible, to minimize their own risk of a death sentence or a severe accident happening to them. Our citizens' trips maybe a little longer, but maybe their travel will be a little safer knowing they do not have to operate with these terrorists.

Your support in passing and approving HB 974 will significantly increase penalty fines for speeding offenders on Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) will deter the majority of offenders, that continue to break the law with no regard for human life. In other jurisdictions such as Forest Heights, Maryland, everyone is aware that if you exceed 30 miles per hour, you face a hefty fine. The citizens of TNACA, Prince George's County, and the state of Maryland deserve to be able to travel with a level of sanity amongst with our fellow citizens without fear that terrorists on the road will not take the lives of our loved ones or disable them for life.

The citizens of Tantallon North Area Civic Association requests your approval to pass HB 974 to significantly raise the speeding fines along all intersections of Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210). Speeders currently know where the two cameras are located at so they slow down just enough to not get ticketed and then continue to drive at exorbitant speeds. There are a significant number of drivers, that know the fine is only \$40 and continue to drive well over the posted speed limit. Our citizens deserve better, they want to get home safely, they want to commute to work safely, they want to engage in commerce, safely. Please help us in getting HB 974 passed to hopefully, slow down and eliminate careless drivers.

Thank You,



Duane L. Bouie  
Vice President, Tantallon North Area Civic Association (TNACA)

# **HB974 Jenoptik Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV

**Testimony Before the Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation  
Committee**

**HB974: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Indian Head Highway PG  
306-24**

**Offered by Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions**

**February 29, 2024**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

Jenoptik is proud to offer this testimony to support HB974 - we appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Delegation to improve safety in Prince George's County. We would especially like to thank Delegate Valderrama for her dedication to this cause and acknowledge the steadfast work of the 210 Safety Committee.

Jenoptik is a globally operating technology group with a US headquarters in Jupiter, Florida and satellite offices around the country. Optical technologies remain the very basis of our business. In 2023, Jenoptik determined that Maryland will be a key focus for investment to broaden the company's technology footprint. At that time, Jenoptik engaged Fiastro Consulting to achieve greater social impact for program participants: Katie Nash and her team are uniquely dedicated to serving Maryland governments and community advocates. Earlier this year, Jenoptik was selected to become the speed enforcement technology vendor for Prince George's County.

***This legislation supports a "best in class" safety program for Prince George's County.***

Jenoptik will bring intelligent traffic photo enforcement with automatic number/license plate recognition to keep citizens safe. We will offer improved data analysis for identifying high speed hot spots. We have begun to identify and provide customizable services and software to serve the County. We are currently in the process of program roll-out but have proved our effectiveness in technology demonstrations.

The prior speed camera program failed to monitor speeds in excess of 89 miles per hour: outrageous dangerous speeds must be curtailed and we believe an increased penalty sends a strong message to this effect. Additionally, the current fine levels are low, given the severity of the ongoing problem.

**CONTACT INFO:**

Katie Nash/[katie@fiastroconsulting.com](mailto:katie@fiastroconsulting.com)/301.524.9142

Dorian Grubaugh/[dorian.grubaugh@jenoptik.com](mailto:dorian.grubaugh@jenoptik.com)

**HB974\_PGPD\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Major Anthony Cline

Position: FAV



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 974 - Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Indian Head Highway PG 306 - 24

**SPONSOR:** Prince George's County Delegation

**HEARING DATE:** February 29, 2024

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 974 - Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Indian Head Highway PG 306 -24**, which seeks to increase civil penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) that are second or subsequent violations or that involve exceeding maximum speed limit by certain amounts.

Since the implementation of speed cameras in 2019, the portion of Indian Head Highway which falls inside Prince George's County has still seen a total of 25 fatal collisions.

Through heavy enforcement by patrol officers, special assignments funded by overtime, and joint operations with the Maryland State Police, the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) has invested massive resources and man-hours into making this roadway safer. Since 2020, approximately 30 percent of violators have been previously cited for speeding along MD RT 210.

The speed monitoring systems currently in use have shown a demonstrable effect in reducing speeding on the highway. However, despite the current speed monitoring enforcement coupled with the best efforts of the PGPD and their increased enforcement, this deadly stretch of MD 210 is still averaging 5 fatalities a year. Please help us to curb dangerous driving and potentially avoid additional tragic deaths by approving the increase of civil penalties as well as penalties that are second or subsequent violations or that involve exceeding maximum speed limit by certain amounts.

The passage of **House Bill 974** would provide additional tools for law enforcement to use to improve traffic safety and help protect the many motorists and pedestrians who travel on Indian Head Highway.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 974** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **To The Environment and Transportation Committee Te**

Uploaded by: Rev. Dr. Robert Screen

Position: FAV



To The Environment and Transportation Committee

General Assembly, Annapolis, MD

**I support HB 974/ PG 306-24, Prince George's County –Speed Monitoring Systems – Indian Head Highway**

As a 46 year resident of the Indian Head Highway Community, I've witnessed the devolution of a once safe and civil traffic driving community, transition into a community embraced in fear, anxiety, frustration, anger and uncertainty.

The characteristics I've described depict a vision of a community griped in a hostage incarcerated dilemma, chained and bound by circumstances beyond its control, but with a daily cloud that constantly and consistently hovers over the main street of this roadway known as Indian Head Highway route 210.

This 14 mile span of highway has been labeled as the "Highway of Death" due to the extraordinary road fatalities it carries throughout the years of its existence, but also because of the dangerous driving characteristics of drivers routinely driving over 100 MPH over the 55 MPH speed limit. Routinely driving on the highway shoulders at speeds 20 plus miles over the speed limit. Routinely running through the red lighted intersections and routinely evidencing serious and fatal accidents!

Residents routinely fear driving the highway by avoiding driving at certain times, driving side streets or simply not driving at all if they can avoid it. Because of the high probability of being involved in an accident living in proximity of the highway **ALL RESIDENTS AUTO INSURANCES RATES HAVE RISEN TO EXORBITANT LEVELS!**

This is a picture of a community in a hostage taking scenario, incarcerated by embolden egregious drivers left to drive with little to no fear of accountability for their dangerous life threatening driving behavior, and the unfortunate scenario where accountable policy measures are not allowed to come to practice to help free this community death spiral.

**It is time to pass HB 974 and set the captives FREE!!!**

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen

210 Traffic Safety Comm./ 18100 Breann Ct. Accokeek, MD. 20607

**In Favor of HB 974 (Ron Weiss).pdf**

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Committee,

**I am Fort Washington resident Ron Weiss in favor of HB 974.**

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you why I support HB 974 and thank you all for the Committee's years of support for the MD 210 Speed Camera Pilot Project.

A special thank you to Delegate Valderrama for pioneering MD 210 safety seven years ago and staying with it all these years.

My family and I moved here 50 years ago when the Air Force assigned me to a defense agency. Indian Head Highway has been our main street ever since. We use it almost every day to shop, go out to eat, and to visit friends and family. My 6 children and 7 grandchildren live close enough that they visit my wife and I several times each year. We are anxious for their safety when they visit because they travel on the "Highway of Death" when they come.

I have been working for 7 years with the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee and Delegate Valderrama to make Indian Head Highway safe for my family and all other families. We have the support of communities on both sides of MD 210 from Oxon Hill to Accokeek. We have the support of our police, our County Executive, and our County Council. Many Charles County residents use 210 and some have voiced their concern for their safety on MD 210.

The MD 210 Speed Camera Pilot Project data shows it has been a success. It has reduced speeds and I believe it has saved lives by changing the behavior of most drivers. And the revenue generated from those who do speed has been transferred to SHA for MD 210 safety improvements (see MD 210 Report).

But a small percentage of the 80,000 vehicles per day are being driven at outrageous speeds and they are doing so repeatedly.

Law abiding people who use MD 210 should not need to be afraid of the traffic violence created by those drivers.

I'm proud that Maryland believes in being good stewards of its resources. Maryland litter control laws range from a \$1,500 fine and possible 30 days in prison to a \$30,000 fine with possible 5 years in prison.

But compare that to the fine for the driver going 170 MPH on MD 210 - \$40, no points, no prison. This is clearly out of balance with the goal of modifying behavior to keep everyone safe.

HB 974 provides an added deterrent for reckless drivers who flout the rules of the road.

Please continue the effort to save lives on MD 210 by voting favorably on HB 974 to help keep us safe from the crazies who repeatedly drive unconscionably fast and endanger our lives and the lives of our families and loved ones.

**Please vote favorably on HB 974.**

Thank you.

Ron Weiss, Fort Washington

# **Maryland Route 210 Report to the Governor and Gene**

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

**Maryland Route 210 Report  
(HB 435, Ch. 606 (2023))**

**A Report to the Governor  
and  
the Maryland General Assembly**

**Maryland Department of Transportation  
State Highway Administration**

**MSAR # 14843  
December 2023**

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) offers this report in response to the reporting requirement contained in Chapter 606 of the Acts of 2023. The language requires SHA, in conjunction with the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, to:

- *Examine, for Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County the engineering, infrastructure, and other relevant factors that SHA determines may contribute to the overabundance of motor vehicle accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the highway; and*
- *Report, to the Governor and the General Assembly, on:*
  - *Its findings and recommendations on the most effective solutions to address these motor vehicle accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the highway; and*
  - *The amount of funds distributed to SHA under § 7-302(e)(4)(iii) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article for the reporting period and the uses or planned uses of the funds.*

## **Overview**

Maryland Route 210 (MD 210) is a nearly 22-mile corridor located in Prince George's and Charles Counties and runs north to south from the Washington D.C. line to the town of Indian Head in Charles County. For many years, MD 210 has had a history of high travel speeds and significant crashes resulting in serious injuries or fatalities. In the past 10 years, there have been 39 fatal crashes on MD 210 between the Charles County line and I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway). Four of the 39 crashes involved pedestrians. SHA continues to work with state and local elected officials, local law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and Prince George's County to address safety concerns and ultimately reduce crashes in the corridor.

## **Safety Improvements**

SHA has made the following major safety improvements along MD 210 in coordination and assistance with local and state partners.

- In Summer 2020, flex posts were installed along the shoulder and gore area of westbound MD 228 to southbound MD 210 to prevent aggressive drivers from using the shoulder as a second left turn lane. This measure has proven to be effective.
- In Summer 2021, SHA made several safety improvements to MD 210:
  - Installed flex posts along the shoulders of MD 210 approaching signalized intersections from Old Fort Road South to Old Fort Road North in both directions.

- Installed advanced hazard beacons approaching several signalized intersections along the MD 210 corridor. These signs are imbedded with flashing yellow lights to warn motorists they are approaching an intersection.
- Reconstructed traffic signals at the intersections of MD 228 (Berry Road), MD 373 (Livingston Road), Farmington Road, Swan Creek Road/Livingston Road, Fort Washington Road, Old Fort Road (North) and at Palmer Road. These improvements are to provide signal heads that can support retroreflective yellow backplates that would enhance the visibility of the signals. In addition, advance street name signs and streetlights were also installed approaching all the reconstructed intersections.
- Upgraded existing pedestrian crossing at the intersections of MD 373, Fort Washington Road, Old Fort Road (North), and Palmer Road.
- Added a new pedestrian crossing at Swan Creek Road which includes countdown pedestrian signals (CPS), accessible pedestrian signals (APS) for the visually impaired, and accessible ramps.
- In Summer 2022, SHA completed a \$130 million interchange project at MD 210 and Kerby Hill Road. This interchange is the first of a series of interchange projects planned for the corridor.
- In Spring 2023, SHA applied for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from USDOT for a shared use path adjacent to MD 210. This shared use path would create critical trail connections north and south of the corridor. SHA coordinated with Prince George’s County and elected officials to gain support for the grant application. SHA was not awarded the grant in 2023; however, the Administration is optimistic about the project for future grant opportunities.
- By the end of calendar year 2023, flex posts will be installed along the shoulders of MD 210, approaching both directions of Palmer Road and in the gore areas of the ramps approaching Kerby Hill Road.

## **Research and Data Collection**

In partnership with the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) Laboratory, SHA is performing research and collecting data to determine effective countermeasures that will improve safety along MD 210. Specifically, the research is looking at MD 210 between the Charles County Line and MD 228 and the feasibility of using quick curb, flex posts, and lane narrowing (from 12 feet to 11 feet) to control travel speeds. The combination of these treatments is anticipated to create a traffic calming effect along MD 210 approaching and beyond the intersections within these limits, thus improving safety in the corridor.

The posted speed limit in this area is 55 miles per hour. Despite this, the speed camera within this area has measured motorists traveling speeds in excess of 170 miles per hour.

## **Coordination with the County**

For years, SHA has been partnering with local law enforcement and community leaders to increase enforcement for speeding, impaired, and distracted driving along the corridor. Enforcement actions to police illegal driving behaviors is critical to improving safety for all users.

In 2019 and in accordance with Annotated Code of Maryland §9-1A-31(b)(4)(i)(1), SHA and Prince George's County executed an MOU that will allocate up to \$15 million annually from MGM Grand Casino video gaming revenues toward corridor improvements for 25 years. This master MOU guides how those revenues can be used to advance projects within the MD 210 corridor. Currently, the County and SHA have agreed to use \$1 million of the available casino revenues to leverage \$5 million in federal funds to advance the preliminary design of an interchange at MD 210 and Palmer Road/Livingston Road and Old Fort Road South.

## **Public Outreach and Education**

A range of public outreach efforts were undertaken to inform the public of SHA's projects along the MD 210 corridor. Four project portal pages were initiated and include an overview, phase, schedule, documents, contact information, and meeting or survey information where applicable.

The portal pages and outreach content include:

- [MD 210 \(Indian Head Highway\) MD 228 to I-95/I-495](#) - This portal page provides an overview of needs along the 10-mile corridor and associated documents.
- [MD 210 \(Indian Head Highway\) Interchange at Palmer Road/Livingston Road and Old Fort Road](#) - This portal page includes a survey to gather stakeholder input regarding what bicycle and pedestrian amenities users would like to see along the corridor as well as how they would like to stay engaged. A postcard mailer was distributed in fall 2023 and uploaded to the portal page.
- [MD 210 \(Indian Head Highway\) Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity Project](#) - This portal page includes a survey to gather stakeholder input regarding what bicycle and pedestrian amenities users would like to see along the corridor as well as how they would like to stay engaged. A public comment form for the public to submit comments or questions about this project is accessible on the portal page. A newsletter was distributed for this project in May 2023 and virtual public meetings were held in November 2021 and December 2022.

Virtual public meetings are recorded and available on the portal pages for these projects. Newsletters, stakeholder email notifications, press releases and social media posts are disseminated as needed for the various initiatives.



In addition to our public outreach for specific projects, SHA actively uses its social media accounts as a platform to spread awareness and educate the public on the importance of safety. This includes safety messaging for motorists and vulnerable users, as well as information about the hazards of speeding, distracted and impaired driving.

## **Automated Speed Monitoring Systems on MD 210**

Automated speed monitoring systems detect motorists traveling 12 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit and ticket them for \$40.00 per violation. The tickets do not carry any other penalties or points. Under current law, a speed monitoring system may not be used in a local jurisdiction unless the use is authorized by the governing body of the local jurisdiction; however, several jurisdictions requested that the State broaden the ability of local jurisdictions to install speed monitoring systems during the 2023 Consolidated Transportation Program tours.

The Maryland General Assembly authorized the use of speed monitoring systems on the MD 210 corridor. Per Chapter 606 of the Acts of 2023, the County may place up to six mobile or stationary speed cameras on the corridor. Prior to the new authorization in 2023, only three mobile or stationary speed monitoring systems were authorized for placement along MD 210. The Act went into effect on June 1, 2023; to date, SHA has not received the required Automated Speed Enforcement permit requests for the additional speed monitoring systems from local law enforcement.

Recently, law enforcement relayed a concern discovered during an assessment of ticketing data. The data showed many violations where speeds exceeded 20 to 30 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Currently, these violators are penalized the same way as those who exceed the posted speed limit by 12 miles per hour.

Per Chapter 147 of the Acts of 2020, all revenues from the speed monitoring systems authorized for use on the corridor are to be used for safety improvements along the corridor. SHA received the first transfer from the Comptroller's office of \$712,259.72 on June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2023. With this funding, SHA plans to continue the preliminary and final design of a new bike trail adjacent to MD 210. This trail will be a separated facility for pedestrians and bicyclists, which will connect existing networks to the north and south. While leveraging the revenues from the speed camera facilities for the planning and design efforts, SHA is simultaneously considering applications for federal grants opportunities to fund the estimated \$17 million construction cost.

SHA will continue to work with our partners in Prince George's County, local law enforcement, advocacy groups, and the community to advance safety improvements and implement proven countermeasures along MD 210. SHA will prioritize maximizing the revenue dollars from the speed monitoring systems and leverage any available federal dollars to push forward critical safety and accessibility projects along the corridor.

**HB 974\_PG 306-24, Prince George's County – Speed M**

Uploaded by: Sandra T Hall

Position: FAV

I support HB 974/PG 306-24, Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Indian Head Highway.

As a long time resident of this community, I am VERY concerned and troubled by the people who speed excessively and repeatedly beyond the 55 Mile an hour speed limit on MD 210.

The current fine of \$40, no matter how fast your vehicle can go, hasn't been increased in several years. The fines for dumping trash is \$1000, but when it comes to a human's life, the penalty again is \$40. I know and understand that this increase is not the end all be all, but it's a start and aggressive drivers MUST be held accountable.

By passing HB 974 which increases the fines for these super speeders perhaps will:

- Save a life or lives
- Send a message that speeding will not be tolerated

The Indian Head Highway Community and those who travel on MD 210 deserve to get to their respective destinations safely. Those who live, work and/or visit this community deserve to do so safely.

No one should feel apprehensive or afraid to travel this stretch of road due to extremely aggressive drivers.

**HB 974 MUST PASS!!!**

Name: Sandra T. Hall

Community: Member of the MD 210 Safety Committee &  
Board Member of the Tantallon Square Area Civic Association (TSACA)

Thank you

# **Tamara Davis Brown Support for HB974.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tamara Brown

Position: FAV

Tamara Davis Brown  
P.O. Box 1292  
Clinton, MD 20735

February 27, 2024

MD House of Delegates  
Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Support for HB 974 – Speed Monitoring System on MD 210

Dear Delegates:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony virtually at today's hearing. I too am a member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee. Due to other work obligations, I could not make the trip in person to support this important legislation.

I am a "ME TOO" witness and simply want to add that reckless driving and excessive speeding KILLS!! It does so indiscriminately. Whether the victim is a pedestrian, a bystander watching drag racing along MD 210, another driver or bicyclist, all of these types of victims have been killed on MD 210.

Reckless driving and excessive speeds know no jurisdiction boundaries. While we can say only 2 lives were lost on this roadway in 210, the word "only" diminishes the lives lost as every life lost is precious. However, when I say "knows no jurisdiction boundaries", the two people killed on MD 210 in 2023 were residents of Charles and Calvert Counties, not Prince George's. So, if you traverse this stretch of roadway, you unfortunately have a likelihood of being in serious accident or death despite your address.

All Delegates should value life so much that they would not want another person to die on this roadway, but especially one of their own constituents.

Please vote favorably for this bill that we as ordinary citizens have been trying to get passed for several legislative sessions. Thank you, and thank you to the bill's sponsor, my Delegate Kris Valderrama.

Very truly,  
Tamara Davis Brown

# **Favorable Testimony for HB 974 by Rev Tierney Scre**

Uploaded by: Tierney Screen

Position: FAV

## FAVORABLE TESTIMONY FOR HB974

I am Accokeek resident Rev. Tierney Screen in favor of HB 974.

We moved to Fort Washington, Maryland 46 years ago and now reside in Accokeek since 1993. During these years I was employed with the Federal government and commuted on Indian Head Highway traveling to numerous destinations.

We raised our daughter and son and taught them to drive paying strict attention to roadway signs, especially speed limits. They are grown-up and have families of their own now, visiting us from time to time. Our greatest fear is their safety on MD 210 Indian Head Highway, which should not be. Every time they leave, we remind them to let us know when they arrive home safely.

In June 2017, an Accokeek resident was violently killed by a Speeder at the intersection of south bound Indian Head Highway and Pine Drive, as he left his job to go home to his family after a day's work. He called home, as usual, to let them know he would see them soon. HE NEVER MADE IT HOME TO HIS LOVED ONES!!!

After seeing the grief on his widow's face and hearing her quivering voice talking with a TV reporter, I felt her pain. It was at that point I decided to do something about the senseless deaths on Indian Head Highway because the victims should not be snatched away from their loved ones, who would never hear their voices, laughter and get and give loving hugs again. Their life's destinies are cut short by drivers who make a conscious decision to "break the law" by exceeding the posted speed limits and driving recklessly.

Today, his family and church community are missing him for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and services he provided to his church.

Unfortunately, he was only one of many who have perished on MD 210 Indian Head Highway. Many families are grieving the sudden and senseless loss of loved ones.

This is why, in August 2017, I became a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, to advocate for safer driver behaviors on Indian Head Highway. Something must be done to STOP the senseless law-breaking speeding that have killed many innocent people who were going about their daily lives to work and live in our communities and to enjoy the love and affection of family.

I pray none of you ever experience the suddenness, shock, and grief of losing a loved one in this manner and that you cast an affirmative vote to support HB974, which is about "Changing driver behavior to SAVE LIVES".

Thank you.

Rev. Tierney Screen, 18100 Breann Court, Accokeek, MD 20607

**PG 306 24 Rt 210 Increased Penalties.pdf**

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FWA





# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**PG 306-24** Traffic Control Devices Monitoring Systems Authorizations – Indian  
Delegate Kriselda Head Highway  
Valderrama  
(Environment and Transportation)

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT

**PG 306-24** – Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems Authorizations - Indian Head Highway – This bill is for the purpose of increasing civil penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County that are second or subsequent violations or that involve exceeding the maximum speed limit by certain amounts; and generally relating to speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Council and our residents have complained for decades about the speeds motorists drive their vehicles on what is nationally known as "death highway." This road is notorious for racing contest and many drivers on Route 210 have been recorded at speeds exceeding 130 mph. This is reckless and dangerous behavior. Over the past 16 years, 91 people have been killed, including 10 people in 2022 alone. These are preventable deaths. Independent studies have shown that speed monitoring systems and enhance penalties do change driver behavior, which is the intention of this bill. The Council respectfully requests a friendly amendment to require those in with second or subsequent violations or that involve exceeding the maximum speed limit by certain amounts, also be required to complete an in-person driver improvement program.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 306-24, with a friendly amendment**, and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

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Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC  
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

**County Administration Building – Largo, Maryland 20774**

# **HB\_974\_FWA\_PrinceGeorgesCountyCouncil**

Uploaded by: Jolene Ivey

Position: FWA



Jolene Ivey  
Chair  
Council District 5

"Serving the People of Prince George's County!"

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Prince George's County Council met on **January 23, 2024** with the following Members present:

- Council Member, Jolene Ivey
- Council Member, Sydney J. Harrison
- Council Member, Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair
- Council Member, Wala Blegay, Vice Chair
- Council Member, Edward Burroughs, III
- Council Member, Wanika B. Fisher
- Council Member, Mel Franklin
- Council Member, Calvin S. Hawkins, II
- Council Member, Eric C. Olson
- Council Member, Krystal Oriadha
- Council Member, Ingrid S. Watson

The Council voted for the following positions on the respective bills:

**LOCAL BILLS**

PG 306-24 Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Indian Head Highway  
145974 – **SUPPORT W AMENDMENT**

ENT

HB 364 PG 301-24: Traffic Control Devices Monitoring Systems Authorizations –  
**SUPPORT**

(

HB 376 UPDATE: PG 501-24: Study on Feasibility of Relocating the Prince George's  
County Public School System Headquarters (with Amendments) – **SUPPORT**  
AS AMENDED

APP

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# **HB0974 - TSO - Prince George's County - Speed Moni**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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February 29, 2024

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

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 974 – Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Indian Head Highway PG 306-24***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on House Bill 974 for the Committee's consideration.

MDOT's top priority is the safety of all transportation users, guided by the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) and the Safe System Approach. Section 21-809(c) of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Annotated Code requires civil penalties for violations recorded by speed cameras on MD 210 in Prince George's County not to exceed \$40. House Bill 974 proposes a graduated fine system in which penalties increase according to how many miles over the posted speed limit the violation is recorded, and according to how many repeat offenses are recorded within a certain period.

Traffic-related fatalities are the highest they have been since 2007. Traffic deaths related to speeding are particularly prevalent along corridors in low to medium density suburban and suburban activity center contexts like MD 210, especially given that most speeding-related fatalities in the United States occur on non-interstate rural and urban roadways. Since 2007 more than 90 people have died in vehicle crashes on MD 210, and the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) which includes the State's federally-mandated Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment, identifies MD 210 in Prince George's County as a high-risk area in the State.

For several years, the State Highway Administration (SHA) has been engaged in a robust effort to address safety issues on MD 210, including coordinating with the County and local community groups; completing a feasibility study for a low-stress bicycle alternative route; partnering with the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) Laboratory; installing quick-build treatments like flex posts and quick-curbs; and implementing other traffic calming measures to control travel speeds at intersection approaches and at the corridor level. And, to address speeding conditions on MD 210, the Prince George's County Police Department continues to deploy more portable speed cameras at various times and locations along the corridor.

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Page Two

Increased penalties for speeding are valuable tools in promoting road safety and are most effective when implemented as part of a comprehensive approach that includes education, enforcement, and especially addressing underlying factors contributing to speeding behavior. In this case, interventions focused on education, awareness campaigns, and addressing underlying motivations would be effective complements to penalties.

MDOT's safety programs are designed to help Maryland prioritize efforts to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries by 2030. As Maryland works towards eliminating traffic-related serious injuries and deaths, MDOT is applying a data driven approach to shape the strategies and metrics that guide our safety programs. Resources like the NRSS, 2050 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, SHSP, Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP), and the Maryland Highway Safety Office's (MHSO) Crash Data Dashboard provide a clear vision for the State to implement speed management strategies using a Safe System Approach.

Maryland's interim Vision Zero target is to reduce the Statewide five-year average for speed related traffic fatalities to 41 or fewer by December 31, 2025. The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 974.

Respectfully submitted,

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