

03-5-24 hb1369 written testimony_000021.pdf

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Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

Date: February 12, 2024

To: House of Delegates, Environment and Transportation Committee:
Chair Delegate Marc Korman and Vice Chair Delegate Regina T. Boyce
All Committee Members and Staff

Re: **HB 1369**, Sponsored by Montgomery County Delegation

**Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200
(Intercounty Connector)
MC 11-24**

Along with several others, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety / Safe Roads Maryland and a citizen of Montgomery County strongly supports the passage of HB1369.

I urge the Committee to **pass a favorable support** for HB1369 in order to increase the safety of traveling on MD Rte. 200. Just recently a motorcyclist lost his life in an accident that also affected another vehicle. Periodically there are accidents and deaths on this roadway.

It is imperative the State of Maryland provide the tools to the general public and law enforcement in order to reduce and eventually curtails excessive speeding and dangerous operation. Our law enforcement, life safety responders, accident scene cleanup, and roadway workers that have to repair damage caused by such accidents as well as erect safety systems while a response to an accident is underway are in danger when an accident takes place.

The high rate of speed on Rte. 200 and unsafe operation places people in danger.

Concluding, a favorable support by the Committee is the first step. I urge all members to reach out to your fellow Delegates and Senators to ensure passage of this important legislation.

Thanks and good luck!

Regards,

John Becker

Member of the Board of Safe Roads Maryland

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**Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
PO Box 7, Olney, MD 20830 (202) 468-7682**

SafeRoadsMD HB 1369 Rec Favorable - Testimony Subm

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



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 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.

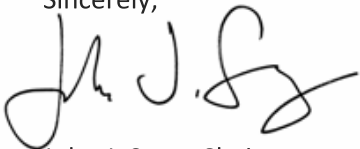
Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

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,



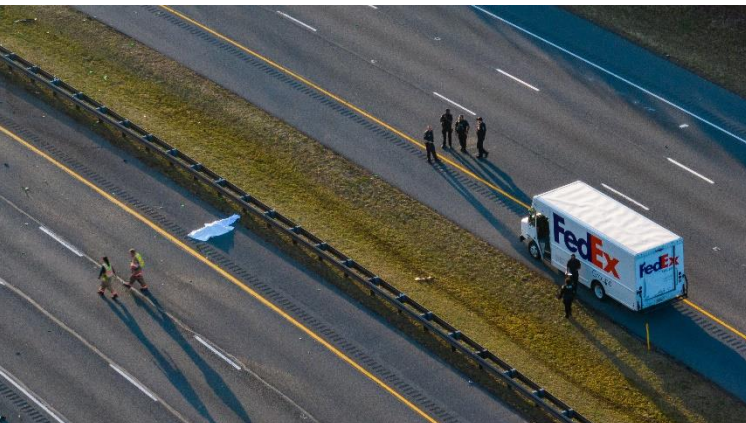
John J. Seng, Chair

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



HB 1369 - MoCo_Wenger_FAV (GA 24).pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Wenger

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 1369

DATE: March 7, 2024

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector) MC 11-24

This bill authorizes the Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MdTA) to place up to four mobile speed monitoring systems on the portion of Maryland Route 200 (the Intercounty Connector, known as the “ICC”) located in Montgomery County. If the MdTA decides to exercise this authority, it would be held to the same requirements as local jurisdictions are now under Section 21-809 of the Transportation Article.

MC 11-24 is a reintroduction of proposals from the 2021 and 2022 Sessions. A version of the 2022 local bill passed the House (House Bill 820). It did not authorize speed monitoring systems to be placed on the ICC in Montgomery County. Instead, it required the MdTA to deploy devices that display a real-time posting of the speed at which a driver is traveling, to increase speed limit enforcement efforts and data collection on speeding violations.

The County supports conveying authority to the MdTA to place speed monitoring systems on the ICC and therefore, supports House Bill 1369, including the clarifying amendments adopted by the Montgomery County House Delegation.

HB 1369 Brooke Manor Estates Wriiten Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Zimmerman

Position: FAV

Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association Rockville, MD

Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

Brooke Manor and our neighboring communities strongly support passage of *HB-1369, Speed Monitoring Systems on Route 200*. Brooke Manor Estates sits next to the ICC between Georgia Ave and Emory Lane. Brooke Manor has been working with both the MDTA Police detachment responsible for the ICC and the MDTA Executive Team for at least the past 5 years on ICC safety and noise issues. We appreciate that they have met with us but little if any concrete action has been undertaken. Yes, we see increased traffic enforcement periodically but nothing to make a long-term difference. There has always been a reluctance to use more aggressive speed reduction techniques like speed cameras.

Speed cameras do work. They do slow you down not only right where they are but also in the general roadway areas where they are located. Speed cameras in combination with increased enforcement really do work. I've seen them slow traffic on Route 28 Norbeck Road, on Georgia Ave in Olney, and on the Jones Falls Expressway in Baltimore where they have reduced speeding and accidents. So Why Not on the ICC?

I travel the ICC daily as do many of my Brooke Manor neighbors. We have all seen the average speed creep up. We understand it is 72 miles per hour now. Covid and the Defund the Police Movement have given people the idea they can drive Anyway they Want. The ICC has become a speedway where cars weave in and out of traffic at 80 miles per hour plus, motorcyclists do the same at 100 miles plus, and trucks downshift going 70. The Noise can be Deafening!

There is no reason not to implement speed cameras on the ICC. Speed cameras can help reduce reckless driving, improve road safety and reduce the road noise that is affecting the quality of life of nearby residents. Unfortunately, another motorcyclist lost their life in an accident last weekend.

The Brooke Manor Estates community strongly supports Bill HB-1369 and hopes it can be passed by the Maryland legislature this year. If it is not, we will be extremely disappointed as will other Montgomery County residents who live near the ICC and/or travel it regularly.

Thank You

Robert Zimmerman
President, Brooke Manor Estates HOA

HB1369 - MDTA - Montgomery County - Speed Monitori

Uploaded by: Pilar Helm

Position: INFO

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.

The Honorable Marc Korman
Page Two

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,

Bradley Ryon
Manager, Government Relations
Maryland Transportation Authority
410-387-5253

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090