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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 413 - MC 19-24 MONTGOMERY COUNTY – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS –
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

MARCH 27, 2024

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Montgomery County is one of the first county governments in the country to initiate a Vision Zero plan. We are making strides to reach our goal of zero vehicle-related deaths by 2030, but consistently we run into barriers preventing progress.

One barrier is the current process for adding speed camera monitoring systems in our communities. Current statute reads as follows:

Before activating a speed monitoring system, the local jurisdiction shall:

1. Publish notice of the location of the speed monitoring system on its website and in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction;

This section of statute was established in 2009¹ when there were more newspapers in general circulation and it was considered the best way to ensure public awareness of a change to a neighborhood. Given the limited number of publications that currently meet this requirement in Montgomery County, in 2024, this largely means publishing in the Washington Post. Costs for these types of ads in the Washington Post can be thousands of dollars for each posting, an unnecessarily large expense. With today's online presence, posting on a website can reach a large audience and promote community awareness of a speed camera installation, similar to the role newspapers once held.

This bill will remove the requirement for publishing notice in a newspaper during the process of adding new speed monitoring systems in Montgomery County. There will still be requirements for public notification through a website.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 413.

¹Maryland General Assembly, *Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statewide Authorization and Use in Highway Work Zones*, Chapter 500, 2007 https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_500_sb0277T.pdf