

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dhruv Maheshwari, and I'm the co-founder and CEO of Obvio, Inc. – a leading provider of traffic safety technology. I'm writing this written testimony SUPPORTING the passage of Maryland House Bill 1032 for automated stop sign enforcement in Montgomery County.

### Obvio Background

Obvio is a Silicon Valley-based technology company, dedicated to improving road safety for our communities, schools, and neighborhoods. Obvio has already played a key role in helping transform the world of traffic safety in Maryland. In 2023, Obvio's technology was being used by police departments in Prince George's County to measure the number of stop sign violators which contributed towards the effort for HB364 - authorizing stop sign monitoring systems in Prince George's County.

### Montgomery Stats

Montgomery County is facing a critical issue at intersections—drivers routinely disregard stop signs, endangering pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists. Data from recent years reveals an even more troubling pattern:

- Four-way intersections remain a hotspot for traffic incidents, accounting for 3,544 of 10,738 crashes in 2023 (33%); 19% increase from the year prior
- 7% of all four-way intersection crashes involved a pedestrian or bicyclist

With less officer headcount and bandwidth than ever before, stop sign monitoring provides an important tool for law enforcement to provide sustained 24/7 deterrence.

## Privacy-Preserving Technology

Novel stop sign technology balances driver behavior change with key privacy features:

- **Violation-Only Recording** – Only anonymized evidence of violations is uploaded for law enforcement review—non-violation footage can be automatically erased within seconds.
- **Strict Data Security & Control** – All uploaded video is encrypted, access is restricted to enforcement use only, and every viewer is logged.
- **Designed for Visibility & Community Engagement** – Cameras are placed in plain sight on poles featuring local artwork, ensuring transparency and eliminating any “hidden gotcha” enforcement.



## Real Results

Prince George's County was the first county in Maryland to authorize stop sign monitoring, with 5 municipalities in the process of implementing the solution. Initial studies show close to a 70% drop in stop sign running as a result of this technology. Click here for W9 overview: [Town of Morningside Implements Stop Sign Camera Program - WUSA9](#)

## Conclusion

We believe technology has advanced sufficiently to support the needs of public safety and we strongly encourage the committee to move forward with this pilot legislation to help the country solve a critical problem.

Thanks,  
Dhruv Maheshwari  
CEO, Obvio Inc.

## The Problem in Montgomery County

### Stats Found

- 32000 total incidents reported in dataset
- 1733 of these total incidents involved pedestrians (5.5%)
- 9535 total four way intersections incidents
- 30% of accidents in Montgomery occurred at four-way intersections (reported)
- 6% of accidents in four-way intersections involved a pedestrian or bicyclist
- 14% of pedestrian or bicycle related accidents led to major injury or a fatality (730 / 5209)
- When isolating fatal and severe crash data, 53.3% (1808 / 3390) of these crashes involved pedestrians or bicyclists
- Total crashes according to map: 98,119
- Pedestrian / bicycle involved: 5,209 (5.3%)
- 2023 specific data: [Collision Data-4 2023 data](#)
  - 3,544 / 10,738 crashes occurred at four-way intersections (33%)
  - 635 / 10,738 crashes involved pedestrians or bicyclists (5.9%)
  - 244 / 3,544 four-way intersection crashes involved pedestrians / bicyclists (6.9%)
  - **According to this data, we can say that pedestrians / bicyclists are 17% more likely to be hit by a car at a four-way intersection**
  - **We can also say that Montgomery county witnessed 19% more pedestrian / bicyclist incidents at four-way intersections in 2023 than 2022. This shows us the problem has no intention of slowing down.**
- 2022 specific data: [Collision Data 2022](#)
  - 3,272 / 9,997 crashes occurred at four-way intersections (32.7%)
  - 585 / 9,997 crashes involved pedestrians or bicyclists (5.85%)
  - 190 / 3,272 four-way intersection crashes involved pedestrians / bicyclists (5.8%)