

February 21, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Support with Amendment – House Bill 206 – Vehicle Laws - Bus Obstruction  
Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 206 as it is consistent with the Department's goals of advancing bus access and safety Statewide.

HB 206 expands the purview of bus facilities eligible for automated enforcement to include bus stop zones and makes relevant technical changes consistent with this addition. The bill would help keep bus stops free of parked, standing, or stopped vehicles. This, in turn, would speed up bus operations and ensure the safety and accessibility of bus stops. To further the goals of this bill and to ensure effective operation, MDOT recommends the Committee add a definition of a “bus stop zone” to the Transportation Article. MDOT would be happy to work with the sponsor and Committee to identify an appropriate definition.

HB 206 builds upon previous legislation which authorized the use of automated enforcement to capture certain violations for driving, standing, or parking a vehicle in a dedicated bus lane (DBL). The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation have partnered to plan, design, and install approximately 17 miles of DBLs throughout MTA’s Core Bus service area. In Montgomery County, the State Highway Administration partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to plan, design, and install approximately 12 lane miles of bus lanes. Further, MCDOT has delivered additional bus-only lanes with more on the horizon. These lanes minimize traffic delays for buses, thereby increasing speed and service reliability, reducing merging and yielding conflicts between buses and other vehicles, and establishing a path for emergency responders.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 206 and issue a favorable report with the suggested amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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