



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support House Bill 1032 – Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems -
Authorization
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 21, 2025**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 1032, which would enable Montgomery County municipalities to protect school zones by authorizing localities to enact legislation, after notice and hearing, allowing the use of stop sign monitoring cameras on local streets and state highways that are in school zones.

This legislation would be especially useful for our city where many people walk to school and participate in our active Safe Routes to School program. Takoma Park has several busy State highways and local main streets that are routes to school for pedestrians and cyclists. We also have bus routes that drop off students at or near busy intersections with stop signs.

We experience a dangerous level of non-compliance in some intersections near our schools. Crossing guards, parents, as well as students and pedestrians would benefit from having in place an automated system that covers key intersections continuously. In-person police enforcement cannot do that.

Takoma Park supports the use of camera monitoring systems because they provide an unbiased enforcement mechanism. Moreover, we have found that the camera monitoring systems (and the citations issued to violators captured via these cameras) to be a highly effective deterrent to speeding and other traffic violations. Thus, we would welcome the opportunity to implement an analogous system for stop signs in school zones including college campuses where high school students are enrolled.

We are prepared to adopt appropriate local authorizing legislation that adheres to all the posting and notification requirements spelled out in HB 1032. We also appreciate the support of the Montgomery County legislative delegation in making it possible for municipalities to determine whether stop sign monitoring systems are necessary and appropriate for their communities.

The City of Takoma Park supports HB 1032 and urges a favorable committee vote.