



SafeRoadsMD

Support HB 0349 –
"Prince George's County -
Speed Monitoring Systems -
Maryland Route 210,"

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.

URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 0349

February 19, 2025

TO:

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
250 & 251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org, SafeRoadsMD.org

Re: Request for a Favorable Report on HB 0349

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety (SafeRoadsMD) supports HB 0349 - "Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210," which calls for a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210. Over the past 17 years, 95 lives have been lost on this road, one of the most dangerous in the United States.

Since 2009, Maryland has imposed a flat \$40 fine for speed camera violations, regardless of the offense's severity. While effective for minor infractions, this paltry fine today fails to deter extreme speeders—some reaching 100 mph or more—who pose the greatest risk. A tiered fine structure would align penalties with the severity of violations, creating a stronger deterrent for reckless speeding while maintaining fairness for lesser infractions.

Speed cameras have reduced speeding and prevented crashes, but the current enforcement mechanism is insufficient. The existing \$40 fine does little to stop habitual and extreme speeders. A stronger penalty system is essential to ensure compliance with speed limits.

HB 0349 proposes the same tiered fines (\$60 - \$500) as the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act for unoccupied work zones. Supporting this Bill will help protect MD 210 users and prevent further tragedies.

Recent data from MD 210's speed cameras highlight the urgency of this legislation. On average, 348 vehicles are cited daily for exceeding 67 mph, and one vehicle was recorded at 190 mph. Over five months, citations dropped 72%, from nearly 17,000 in August 2024 to about 4,700 in December.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

However, nearly 16,000 vehicles still exceeded 71 mph, averaging more than 100 violations per day. Alarming, more than two vehicles per day were caught driving 95 mph or more.

Key Facts About HB 0349 and related issues:

1. The bill does not impose additional fines on repeat offenders.
2. Funds from uncontested citations, beyond operational costs, go to the State Highway Administration (SHA) for MD 210 safety improvements.
3. To date, \$1.3 million in speed camera fines have funded:
 - o Flex posts to prevent illegal left-turn shoulder use.
 - o Advanced hazard beacons at intersections.
 - o Upgraded traffic signals at key intersections.
 - o Pedestrian safety enhancements, including crossings and countdown signals.
 - o A \$130 million interchange project at MD 210 and Kerby Hill Road.

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety urges you to submit a favorable review for HB 0349 to protect MD 210 users and save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John J. Seng
Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board, Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee, Peter Gray/BikeMaryland