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MAYOR

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**HB 206**

February 21, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 206 - Vehicle Laws – Bus Obstruction Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones

**POSITION: Favorable**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 206.

HB 206 simply expands which areas can be monitored by bus lane enforcement cameras to include bus stop zones. This would greatly improve the viability and usefulness of bus-mounted cameras outside routes which make extensive use of bus lanes. Allowing for the use of bus camera enforcement outside areas with extensive bus lane coverage would improve the camera program's potential as a tool for improving compliance and reducing bus travel times.

Since February 14, 2023, the City has issued 11,158 Bus/Bike Lane Citations. Additionally, 1,271 service requests associated with obstructed bus stops were submitted through the 311 system. Along Charles Street alone, 1,135 Bus/Bike Lane Citations were issued, and 67 bus stop obstruction service requests were submitted. The nature of bus stop parking violations makes them very difficult to enforce, with many reported vehicles being "gone on arrival" upon parking enforcement officer investigation. Allowing for the automated enforcement of bus stops could free limited enforcement resources while improving compliance. Additionally, this additional enforcement mechanism will hopefully lead to behavior modifications which will allow our public transportation systems to run more efficiently.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 206.