



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1173 – Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – High-Risk
Highways MC 17-25
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I'm Christine Krone from Schwartz, Metz, Wise, and Kauffman in representation of the Mayor and Council of Rockville. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1173. We are thankful to the Montgomery County Delegation for sponsoring this important legislation. The City would also like to recognize Senator Kagan for her efforts on this bill in support of municipalities.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 1173, which authorizes Montgomery County and its municipalities to locate speed monitoring systems identified in a County, municipal, or State Vision Zero Plan/Local Strategic Highway Safety Plan as high-risk roads resulting in bodily injuries or death. After recovering implementation costs, local governments must direct speed camera revenues from those roadways toward funding the design and construction of safety-related projects. This legislation aligns with Rockville's Vision Zero program, which seeks to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

HB 1173 is of great significance because it would allow for the placement of additional speed cameras on State roads in Rockville and Montgomery County municipalities. In Rockville, five out of our six roads in the City's "High Injury Network" are located on State roads, including MD 355 Rockville Pike from Veirs Mill Road to Bouic Avenue, MD 28 from Research Boulevard to Mannakee Street, and MD 355 Frederick Road from Ridgemont Avenue to Watkins Pond Boulevard. At these locations, there have been at least four fatal or serious injury crashes between 2017-2021. Additionally, Hungerford Drive, MD 355, and Viers Mill Road, MD 586, are priority corridors in the State's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

The revenue generated would support Rockville making additional investments in critical infrastructure projects to improve safety for those who walk, bike, roll, and use public transportation. Having the ability to implement more projects would expedite the forward progress the City is making towards achieving its Vision Zero program goals.

HB 1173 is a major step forward in support of achieving our mutual Vision Zero goals. By increasing the prevalence of speed cameras on State roads in Montgomery County and its municipalities, we will improve safety and access for our most vulnerable residents who walk, bike, roll, and use public transit. For these reasons we urge the Committee to provide HB 1173 with a favorable report.