



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 348 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I want to thank Delegate Stewart for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support this legislation. HB 348 authorizes the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on State highways identified by MDOT SHA as an area of high risk to vulnerable users in a vulnerable road user safety assessment or a priority corridor in MDOT SHA’s Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. HB 348 aligns with Rockville’s Vision Zero Action Plan, which seeks to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries.

HB 348 is of great significance because it would allow for the placement of additional speed cameras on State roads in Rockville and other 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.

Additional speed cameras at high injury network locations on State Roads in Rockville are needed to improve safety for those who walk, bike, roll, and use public transit. However, it is very difficult to get additional speed cameras on State roads because of the limited number of state roadway locations that are eligible for automated enforcement.

HB 348 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 Maryland’s 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 348 with a favorable report.