



HB 1032 – Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization
MC 4-25 – FAVORABLE

February 21, 2024

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) is a regional advocacy organization that envisions a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around. WABA supports HB 1032.

We know the terrible toll that reckless and negligent driving has taken on Montgomery County residents and visitors. Overall, Montgomery County has experienced 45 road fatalities in 2024 to date including 15 pedestrians. This road carnage must end. Montgomery County's recently released Vision Zero Annual Report shows a 17% increase in roadway fatalities in 2023 compared to pre-COVID years and a continued upward trend in serious and fatal crashes following a 2020 COVID dip.

It is especially tragic when a child is killed or seriously injured in a motor vehicle collision. A year ago, on November 20, 2023, 5-year-old Sky Sosa and 10-year-old Shalom Mbah were hit by a motor vehicle and killed near their elementary school in Riverdale Park, nearby in Prince George's County. This incident spurred the enactment of state legislation enabling the placement of stop-sign monitoring cameras near schools in Prince George's County.

HB 1032 is enabling legislation that would grant similar authority to locate stop-sign enforcement cameras near Montgomery County schools.

We note that automated enforcement is far more equitable – and inexpensive and scalable – than in-person police enforcement, with no potential for dangerous escalation of traffic stops or discrimination against Black and Brown drivers. We also note that traffic enforcement is no substitute for investment in transportation infrastructure that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and rollers. This bill is not a substitute for that investment, but would lead to near-term safety improvements.

Please advance HB 1032, to promote safe streets, Vision Zero, and equitable enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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