

**Submission Date: February 19, 2025      Hearing Date: February 21, 2025**  
**Bill: HB-349**  
**Title: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - MD Route 210**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Leventhal, and I live in Maryland Legislative District 26. I am a several term past President of the Moyaone Association, and currently the Chair of Special Projects. The Moyaone Association is a non-profit volunteer membership organization for property owners in the Moyaone Reserve. I also commuted 5 days a week for 15 years along Route 210 from Accokeek to my job in Arlington County.

More than 50% of the vehicles traveling both north and south on Route 210 Accokeek, are from Charles County, counties farther south, and from Virginia (via the Middleton-Nice bridge). It has been my observation over the last 25 years that many of the vehicles coming into Accokeek from the south onto Route 210 generally follow the speed limits along Route 228 and Route 210 in Charles County. This is because the tickets for speeding there are high.

But when these speed conscious drivers cross into Prince George's County and Route 210, it is as if they have entered into Talladega Speedway. The speeding vehicles on Route 210, as is monitored by several speed cameras along the road, is in the thousands. These speeds are not simply slightly over the posted speed limit, but at speeds dramatically over the limit. And the price for these violations, regardless if 10 mph or 100 mph over the posted speed, is just \$40.

True, not all of the vehicles from Charles County and further south are speed violators. However, I would conjecture that if the number of speed tickets issued along Route 210 are divided up by the county in which the speeding vehicles are registered, a majority of them would be from outside of Prince George's County. The ridiculously low penalty for speeding on Route 210, given the number of citations recorded by the speed cameras, is strong proof that the current fines provide no adequate deterrent in preventing speeding on this road.

This problem needs to be, and can only be, rectified by State legislation. HB-349 is a great start in this process. Would creating a high enough fine for excessive speeding on Route 210 reduce the number of speeders? Unfortunately, it will reduce the reckless driving behavior of many, but not all, of those traveling at dangerous high speeds on a road not built for racing. But

reducing a majority of the problem through steeper fines is a good start in slowing down the number of offenders who put the rest of us at risk when using Route 210.

Thank you for allowing this testimony on this important piece of legislation. I hope that all of you will support HB-349.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Leventhal.