

Submission date 2/19/2025
BILL: HB-349

HEARING DATE: 2/21/2025
**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 Judith Allen-Leventhal, and I reside in Maryland Legislative District 26. I am past president of the Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) and currently serve on that Board and Chair its Roadway Advocacy Committee for South County (RACS), an ad hoc committee established at the urging of concerned citizen activists advocating for improved roadway conditions in southern Prince George's County. I am writing on behalf of RACS to enthusiastically endorse HB-349.

HB-349 would implement a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210, a dangerous stretch of road (95 people have been killed there over the last 17 years). State legislation initiated in 2009 enforces a flat \$40 fine for all MD 210 speed camera violations, regardless of how high the speed. This modest fine may deter minor infractions, but it does not address more serious and reckless driving where speeds reach 100 mph or more. (The new MD 210 speed cameras clocked one vehicle at 190 mph!). Clearly, the flat fine does little to deter extreme speeders who present the greatest safety threat to other motorists and pedestrians. The tiered fine structure would ensure that penalties are proportionate to the severity of the violation. HB-349 would more effectively deter reckless driving and reduce the risk of fatalities. Also, HB-349 proposes the same tiered fines (\$60 - \$500) as the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act sponsored by Lt. Governor Miller for an unoccupied work zone.

MD 210 speed cameras have already reduced speeding and prevented accidents, as illustrated by the citation statistics for the new cameras over five months of operation (citations have been reduced by 72%, down from nearly 17,000 in August 2024 to about 4,700 in December, 2024); strengthening enforcement mechanisms proposed in HB-349 would further enhance their impact by motivating those speeders who seem to accept the current \$40 fine and continue to drive recklessly to abide by the law. HB-349 will help change reckless driving behavior and prevent more families from experiencing the devastating loss of a loved one.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, for your consideration and support of HB-349, and for your leadership in strengthening the safety of travel on Maryland Route 210.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Allen-Leventhal