

House Bill 1173 – March 11, 2025

By: Montgomery County Delegation **Assigned to:** Environment and Transportation

Title: Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – High-Risk Highways MC 17-25

Submitted by: Ms. Marea Petrelles, Derwood, MD, Derwood Neighborhood Community Alliance

Dear Honorable Marc Korman and Committee members:

I support House Bill 1173.

Shady Grove Road is a very busy roadway in Montgomery County, Maryland. This roadway has experienced significant traffic issues and problems such as serious accidents resulting in injuries, and fatalities over the last few decades, both vehicle and pedestrian.

Shady Grove Road is designated as one of the High Injury Network (HIN) roadways in Montgomery County. I support the installation of Speed Monitoring Systems for Shady Grove Road and its corridor. This would be aligned with the County's Vision Zero Action Plan, which is to eliminate serious injury and fatal collisions for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Vision Zero (VZ) has plans to reach its goals with projects and activities to improve traffic safety by 2030. I see the implementation of Automated Traffic Enforcement via the Speed Monitoring Systems as critical to reaching VZ's goals and saving lives.

In the 1990s a neighbor woman was driving on Briardale Rd through to Shady Grove Rd, and her vehicle was struck by a speeding truck resulting in her death. I can still remember the sight of her car off in the ravine on the west side of Shady Grove Rd. It was an awful feeling to know what happened to her and I remember the car as a bright yellow Volkswagen. Since then, there has been countless vehicle accidents with serious injuries at multiple intersecting roads along Shady Grove Rd, including the Epsilon/Tupelo intersection less than a ¼ mile north from Briardale Rd. On a morning in November 2020 there was a pedestrian death at the intersection of Shady Grove Rd and Briardale Rd. The man was struck by a car as he was crossing Shady Grove Rd.

On a more personal note, as a former landlord, in 2011, one of my tenants and two of her three children were involved in an accident. They were making a left turn from Shady Grove Road onto Briardale Road when they were struck by a car traveling at high speed. The accident caused her car to be completely totaled; fortunately, she and her children sustained minor injuries. This was BEFORE a Left-turn signal at Briardale Rd for both directions north/south on Shady Grove Rd was installed.

Derwood, MD is home to a diverse community with families who live, work, and play in the neighborhood. It is a nice area surrounded by a dangerous road. Many of us walk, run, and bike, and often find ourselves crossing Shady Grove Rd at the intersection's crosswalk. I would really like more safety provisions for my neighbors. *I support HB1173 and hope it gains favorable support and passage.*

Thank you, Chair Korman and the committee, for your time and the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

Marea Petrelles
Derwood, MD resident