



## Montgomery County's Advocates for Better Transportation

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Chair Marc Korman  
And Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 20, 2024

Re: SUPPORT for HB 348 - Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Safety Corridors

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Action Committee for Transit (ACT), a Montgomery County-based organization, strongly supports HB0348 because it is imperative to discourage speeding that kills and injures our fellow community members whenever they are going about their daily lives. This bill authorizes the State Highway Administration to place speed cameras in priority corridors identified in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. In addition, revenue generated from fines will help fund safety improvement.

According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#), speeding puts pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users at severe risk of death or long-lasting injury whenever they are struck. Every additional amount of speed decreases the probability of survival. Moreover, data clearly shows Equity Focus Areas [suffer higher rates of crashes that result in a fatality or severe injury](#). Community members of color and lower incomes are bearing the brunt of unsafe walking, rolling, and biking conditions. Many of the most dangerous streets are along state highways where people walk to WMATA Metro stations, bus stops, grocery stores, and schools. It truly is a cruel fate to die or be severely injured due to a speeding driver while accessing public transportation.

A great feature of this legislation is the positive use of fines to fund safety improvements. Communities are left waiting for many years for improvements due to budgetary constraints. Directing fines to fund safety projects is a form of redress for the cruelty of risking life and limb for just going to the local bus stop.

I have participated in pedestrian and bike safety audits, and I know members of the General Assembly or your staff have attended these audits. We have all gone to or at least read about white shoe and ghost bike memorials after a fatal crash. I was almost hit by a speeding driver while going to my volunteer election worker shift. It is imperative to bring dangerous speeding under control, and speed cameras are a tool to do it with. ACT urges the Environment and Transportation Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Michael Larkin  
Vice President, Housing and Land Use