



Jolene Ivey
Chair
At-Large Council Member

"Serving the People of Prince George's County!"

Route 210 - Highway of Death

My question is: when is enough finally enough?

I commend Senator Muse and Delegate Valderrama and the entire County Delegation for working on this important legislation, House Bill 0349, because lives – literally – depend on it passing.

AAA has designated Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County as the deadliest road in Maryland. As is all too well known, since 2007 more than 90 lives have been lost on this stretch of road sadly known as the "Highway of Death."

The joint efforts by Prince George's County and State Police in monitoring driver activity on Route 210, coupled with the newly installed replacement speed cameras, are critical steps towards achieving this goal. These measures are not just about enforcement but about instilling a culture of responsible driving that prioritizes the safety of all road users. However, the fine for a speed camera ticket of \$40 is currently too low to deter and stop offenders. Common sense and public safety should allow enforcement to assess the escalating fines contained in this bill, where the faster one drives above the speed limit the higher the fine.

In 2024 alone, twenty-one people were killed on Route 210, eleven of them hit-and-run incidents. Between August and October of 2023, the cameras spotted 204 drivers traveling at speeds of over 100 mph. One driver was clocked at 170 mph. We must acknowledge the lives lost and the countless families affected, and in their memory, our promise to make Route 210 a safer road.

The proposal to increase the fines for speeding is a crucial step in changing driver behavior and ensuring that the consequences of reckless driving are both immediate and impactful. This legislation will serve as a deterrent and a reminder that the safety of our residents is paramount. I fully support this legislation, and I hope that you on this distinguished committee will do the same. Please pass HB 0349.

Thank you for your time.