

February 19, 2025

HB1032: Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization MC 4-25

Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I support HB1032, allowing the use of a stop sign monitoring system in school zones of Montgomery County.

Drivers are supposed to stop their vehicles at all stop signs, regardless of the location. Unfortunately compliance is very low anywhere you take a sampling and statistically shown that 50% of drivers do not stop at stop signs when no pedestrians are present, while still 30% never stopped even while child pedestrians were present¹.

Compliance is necessary to keep vulnerable road users, including children walking to and from schools, safe. We need automated systems around the county to change behavior, policing is not enough. The county will clearly notify road users of the new system and many drivers, upon understanding the changes, will choose to be compliant more often and not at just the stop signs in the limited school zone area. The more we can change habits for the better, the more likely vulnerable road users, adults and children alike, will be able to safely use pedestrian facilities as they were designed.

I urge a favorable reading from the committee so that it can be brought to the House floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Steve Ashurst
14401 Hollyhock Way
Burtonsville, MD 20866
steve.a.md3@gmail.com
330-474-3147

¹ Page 3: https://trforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2012v51n3_07_StopControlledIntersections.pdf