



COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation Committee

BILL NUMBER: Hb 206 - Bus Obstruction Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones

HEARING DATE: February 21, 2025

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Hayden AI is a US-based company that works with transit agencies, including WMATA, to help combat illegal parking obstructions that undermine safe and reliable public transit.

While there are some discrepancies between which parking offenses are enforced from bus-mounted devices around the country, there is one commonality amongst them all: **All of these programs include bus stop zone enforcement.**

Programs in Washington, DC, New York City, Oakland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Sacramento, Santa Monica and Chicago all protect bus stop zones.

Under the law that was passed last year, **only Maryland excludes bus stops**. While the law did allow bus stops that are “adjacent” to bus lanes to be enforced, this exception would only encompass a tiny fraction of bus stop zones in Maryland. The local impact of this exclusion is especially odd. WMATA’s Clear Lanes program protects both bus lanes and bus stop zones from illegal parking in DC, but when their buses cross into Maryland, bus stop parking violations could not be enforced.

Everywhere else, enforcement of illegal parking at bus stops is considered essential. Illegal parking in bus stops greatly increases hazards, especially for people with disabilities and seniors. For example, blocked bus stops make boarding dangerous and sometimes impossible for wheelchair users because bus operators are unable to properly deploy wheelchair access ramps if the bus cannot pull up to the curb.

For a disabled person, a blocked bus stop can mean the difference between reaching their destination on time or late – or not reaching it at all. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 206, which would restore the protection of bus stop zones to the Better Bus Service Act that was enacted in 2024.