



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 348

DATE: February 21, 2025

SPONSOR: Delegate Stewart

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (sara.morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors

House Bill 348 would authorize the State Highway Administration (SHA) to put automated traffic enforcement (ATE) systems on highways designated as high risk to vulnerable road users and on priority corridors in SHA's most recent Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Violation revenues would be distributed by the Comptroller to SHA to cover program costs and additional safety projects in those areas of need. Montgomery County supports House Bill 348 with an amendment allowing counties and municipalities with existing ATE programs to continue operating the cameras under the expanded authority of the bill rather than shifting the programs to SHA.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2023, speeding was a contributing factor in nearly 30 percent of the more than 12,000 traffic fatalities that occurred in the previous year. NHTSA also reported that speed safety camera systems are a Federal Highway Administration Proven Safety Countermeasure (Office of Safety, 2021) that can reduce roadway fatalities and injuries by 20 to 37 percent. House Bill 348 would improve roadway safety in Maryland by deploying ATE systems on designated high injury roadways.

To avoid duplicative automated enforcement by SHA in counties and municipalities with existing ATE programs, Montgomery County would request that the Committee consider an amendment to House Bill 348 to allow these entities to retain control of their programs. Necessary equipment and operations are already in place, and agreements could be worked out with the State to address revenue sharing issues.

Montgomery County would urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 348 with the suggested amendment.