

Carrington 2025 PGC PG 306-25 Route 210 Increased

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 306-25 Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems
Prince George's County - Maryland Route 210
Delegation

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 306-25 is for the purpose of increasing civil penalties for violations captured by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County. This legislation introduces a tiered penalty structure based on the degree to which drivers exceed the maximum posted speed limit and imposes escalating fines for repeat offenses within a two-year period. By targeting excessive speeding and repeat violations, the bill seeks to enhance traffic safety on one of the county's most dangerous roadways, reducing the risk of accidents and saving lives.

The Prince George's County Council strongly supports the proposed legislation to enhance penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway). This legislation directly addresses the ongoing concerns about excessive speeding on this heavily traveled roadway, which has posed significant risks to public safety. By establishing a tiered penalty structure based on the severity of speed violations and imposing additional penalties for repeat offenses within a two-year period, the bill sends a clear message about the importance of compliance with posted speed limits. These measures aim to deter dangerous driving behaviors, improve road safety, and protect residents and commuters.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 306-25** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

HB 349 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Young

Position: FAV

Support of HB 349

Good afternoon, my name is Deborah Young, I reside in Fort Washington about 2 miles from MD 210 and I am testifying in support of HB 349. MD 210 is our major thoroughfare. I am afraid of traveling a great distance on MD 210 because of the dangerous driving behavior of so many motorists using this highway. I often cross over 210 and travel back roads which adds time and miles to get to my destinations.

Many of the drivers on MD 210 have no regard for the speed limit on 210. Vehicles traveling on 210 pass me so fast that I often think I am sitting still. While the speed cameras may not solve all the problems of MD 210, however I do believe that if heftier fines are levied based on the speed a vehicle is going, it will make a major difference in changing the driving behavior of many. The current \$40 fine for all speeders going beyond 66 mph has been a great start but I strongly believe the tiered schedule will yield greater results. Fort Washington is a great place to live and I should not be afraid to travel on MD 210. I request that you pass HB 349. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

SafeRoadsMD Support - HB 0349.pdf

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

Support HB 0349 –
"Prince George's County -
Speed Monitoring Systems -
Maryland Route 210,"

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.

URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 0349

February 19, 2025

TO:

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
250 & 251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org, SafeRoadsMD.org

Re: Request for a Favorable Report on HB 0349

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

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety (SafeRoadsMD) supports HB 0349 - "Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210," which calls for a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210. Over the past 17 years, 95 lives have been lost on this road, one of the most dangerous in the United States.

Since 2009, Maryland has imposed a flat \$40 fine for speed camera violations, regardless of the offense's severity. While effective for minor infractions, this paltry fine today fails to deter extreme speeders—some reaching 100 mph or more—who pose the greatest risk. A tiered fine structure would align penalties with the severity of violations, creating a stronger deterrent for reckless speeding while maintaining fairness for lesser infractions.

Speed cameras have reduced speeding and prevented crashes, but the current enforcement mechanism is insufficient. The existing \$40 fine does little to stop habitual and extreme speeders. A stronger penalty system is essential to ensure compliance with speed limits.

HB 0349 proposes the same tiered fines (\$60 - \$500) as the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act for unoccupied work zones. Supporting this Bill will help protect MD 210 users and prevent further tragedies.

Recent data from MD 210's speed cameras highlight the urgency of this legislation. On average, 348 vehicles are cited daily for exceeding 67 mph, and one vehicle was recorded at 190 mph. Over five months, citations dropped 72%, from nearly 17,000 in August 2024 to about 4,700 in December.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

However, nearly 16,000 vehicles still exceeded 71 mph, averaging more than 100 violations per day. Alarming, more than two vehicles per day were caught driving 95 mph or more.

Key Facts About HB 0349 and related issues:

1. The bill does not impose additional fines on repeat offenders.
2. Funds from uncontested citations, beyond operational costs, go to the State Highway Administration (SHA) for MD 210 safety improvements.
3. To date, \$1.3 million in speed camera fines have funded:
 - o Flex posts to prevent illegal left-turn shoulder use.
 - o Advanced hazard beacons at intersections.
 - o Upgraded traffic signals at key intersections.
 - o Pedestrian safety enhancements, including crossings and countdown signals.
 - o A \$130 million interchange project at MD 210 and Kerby Hill Road.

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety urges you to submit a favorable review for HB 0349 to protect MD 210 users and save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "S".

John J. Seng
Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board, Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee, Peter Gray/BikeMaryland

Ivey Testimony HB0349_02212025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jolene Ivey

Position: FAV



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.

SUPPORT OF HB-349.pdf

Uploaded by: Joyce Perkinson

Position: FAV

SUPPORT OF HB-349

My name is Joyce Perkinson. My husband and I have lived west of Maryland Route 210 in the Fort Washington, MD area since 1968.

Over the years, we have watched this rural highway become a more suburban interchange for commuters heading north to the DC, Northern Virginia, and Beltway Traffic Exchange. We have traveled this highway to work and play, taught our children to drive using it, but now avoid driving on it regardless because of the fear of its death trap. We have witnessed a horrendous culture change in the way drivers disrespect the life-threatening dangers and consequences of speeding and reckless driving resulting in many deaths, injuries, and property damage on MD Route 210.

The passage of HB-349 will at least begin to get drivers' attention to begin more calculated safe driving and ensure the security of our families.

As our elected officials, we look to you to make decisions in the best interest of our Maryland families. Passage of HB-349 is, by far, one of these decisions. Thank you!

RACS support of HB 349.pdf

Uploaded by: Judy Allen-Leventhal

Position: FAV

Submission date 2/19/2025
BILL: HB-349

HEARING DATE: 2/21/2025
**TITLE: Prince George's County – Speed
Monitoring Systems – MD Route 210**

POSITION: Favorable
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Judith Allen-Leventhal, and I reside in Maryland Legislative District 26. I am past president of the Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) and currently serve on that Board and Chair its Roadway Advocacy Committee for South County (RACS), an ad hoc committee established at the urging of concerned citizen activists advocating for improved roadway conditions in southern Prince George's County. I am writing on behalf of RACS to enthusiastically endorse HB-349.

HB-349 would implement a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210, a dangerous stretch of road (95 people have been killed there over the last 17 years). State legislation initiated in 2009 enforces a flat \$40 fine for all MD 210 speed camera violations, regardless of how high the speed. This modest fine may deter minor infractions, but it does not address more serious and reckless driving where speeds reach 100 mph or more. (The new MD 210 speed cameras clocked one vehicle at 190 mph!). Clearly, the flat fine does little to deter extreme speeders who present the greatest safety threat to other motorists and pedestrians. The tiered fine structure would ensure that penalties are proportionate to the severity of the violation. HB-349 would more effectively deter reckless driving and reduce the risk of fatalities. Also, HB-349 proposes the same tiered fines (\$60 - \$500) as the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act sponsored by Lt. Governor Miller for an unoccupied work zone.

MD 210 speed cameras have already reduced speeding and prevented accidents, as illustrated by the citation statistics for the new cameras over five months of operation (citations have been reduced by 72%, down from nearly 17,000 in August 2024 to about 4,700 in December, 2024); strengthening enforcement mechanisms proposed in HB-349 would further enhance their impact by motivating those speeders who seem to accept the current \$40 fine and continue to drive recklessly to abide by the law. HB-349 will help change reckless driving behavior and prevent more families from experiencing the devastating loss of a loved one.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, for your consideration and support of HB-349, and for your leadership in strengthening the safety of travel on Maryland Route 210.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Allen-Leventhal

HB 349 Support Jenoptik.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of HB 349
Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (PG 306-25)

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Presented on Behalf of Jenoptik
February 21, 2025

Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support of HB 349, which strengthens Prince George's County's speed monitoring program on Maryland Route 210 by increasing civil penalties for violations. Jenoptik, a global leader in traffic safety solutions and partner with the 210 Safety Committee, voices strong support for this bill.

Maryland Route 210, also known as Indian Head Highway, has long been recognized as one of the most dangerous roadways in the state. Despite existing enforcement efforts, excessive speeding continues to pose a significant risk to motorists, pedestrians, and law enforcement personnel. This excessive speeding is often perpetuated by repeat offenders. Our speed monitoring systems are already proving to be a highly effective tool in improving compliance and we share in the goal to ultimately save lives.

Increasing the civil penalties for violations, as HB 349 proposes, strengthens the deterrent effect of these enforcement tools with the hope of discouraging reckless driving. The lead sponsor of the legislation, the Delegation, the Prince George's County Police, and the 210 Safety Committee have worked to pass this legislation as a long-term solution to combat the persistent speeding problem on this critical corridor. Jenoptik adds our support to enable passage of this legislation.

We testify that our advanced speed monitoring technology provides accurate, reliable, and fair enforcement, ensuring that only legitimate violations are cited. Yet while we can provide data that identifies the need for additional penalties, only a change in Maryland law can provide the tool. HB 349 is a necessary step in protecting the lives of those who travel along Maryland Route 210. We urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report and support its passage to maintain and strengthen the critical speed monitoring efforts in Prince George's County.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are happy to work with our engineers to answer any technical questions you may have regarding the technology.

Katie Nash on behalf of Jenoptik
301.524.9142 (cell)

HB349_Lewis Garrett_FAV

Uploaded by: Lillie Lewis Garrett

Position: FAV

My name is Lillie Lewis Garrett, I reside at 7218 Roanne Drive, Oxon Hill, MD.

My reasons for having Prince Georges County install speed cameras on 210 N&S (Indian Head Highway) is because on February 25, 2023, at 2:30 pm, my husband and I, while awaiting for a left turn signal, were involved in a horrendous broadside collision that felt like a bolt of lightning. This incident occurred when an uninsured driver, traveling at a high rate of speed, ran a red light at the intersection ramp of Indian Head Highway, heading southbound towards Kerby Hill Road, according to the police report. The impact totaled our vehicle, causing all interior airbags to deploy. I was in severe shock and immediately rushed by ambulance to Adventist hospital with severe bodily injuries. After speaking with police on the scene, My husband arrived at the hospital with bodily injuries. Our demolished vehicle was eventually towed away by J&J Towing.

I encourage you to consider installing speed cameras in both directions on 210 (N&S).

It should slow down traffic flow and may prevent more accidental fatalities on Indian Head Highway. We hope your decision can be made in a timely manner before any more fatalities are recorded by Prince Georges County Police Department. Thank you for your time and attention while reviewing this serious matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillie Lewis Garrett
Prince Georges County Resident

HB-349, speed fines.word:pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Leventhal

Position: FAV

Submission Date: February 19, 2025 Hearing Date: February 21, 2025

Bill: HB-349

Title: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - MD Route 210

Position: Favorable

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Leventhal, and I live in Maryland Legislative District 26. I am a several term past President of the Moyaone Association, and currently the Chair of Special Projects. The Moyaone Association is a non-profit volunteer membership organization for property owners in the Moyaone Reserve. I also commuted 5 days a week for 15 years along Route 210 from Accokeek to my job in Arlington County.

More than 50% of the vehicles traveling both north and south on Route 210 Accokeek, are from Charles County, counties farther south, and from Virginia (via the Middleton-Nice bridge). It has been my observation over the last 25 years that many of the vehicles coming into Accokeek from the south onto Route 210 generally follow the speed limits along Route 228 and Route 210 in Charles County. This is because the tickets for speeding there are high.

But when these speed conscious drivers cross into Prince George's County and Route 210, it is as if they have entered into Talladega Speedway. The speeding vehicles on Route 210, as is monitored by several speed cameras along the road, is in the thousands. These speeds are not simply slightly over the posted speed limit, but at speeds dramatically over the limit. And the price for these violations, regardless if 10 mph or 100 mph over the posted speed, is just \$40.

True, not all of the vehicles from Charles County and further south are speed violators. However, I would conjecture that if the number of speed tickets issued along Route 210 are divided up by the county in which the speeding vehicles are registered, a majority of them would be from outside of Prince George's County. The ridiculously low penalty for speeding on Route 210, given the number of citations recorded by the speed cameras, is strong proof that the current fines provide no adequate deterrent in preventing speeding on this road.

This problem needs to be, and can only be, rectified by State legislation. HB-349 is a great start in this process. Would creating a high enough fine for excessive speeding on Route 210 reduce the number of speeders? Unfortunately, it will reduce the reckless driving behavior of many, but not all, of those traveling at dangerous high speeds on a road not built for racing. But

reducing a majority of the problem through steeper fines is a good start in slowing down the number of offenders who put the rest of us at risk when using Route 210.

Thank you for allowing this testimony on this important piece of legislation. I hope that all of you will support HB-349.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Leventhal.

Testimony for HB0349.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Monroe

Position: FAV

Support for HB0349: Increasing Fines for Speeding on Indian Highway 210

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0349, the bill that aims to increase the fines for going over the speed limit on 210 (Piscataway) Indian Highway. I believe that stricter penalties are necessary to ensure the safety of all road users on this dangerous stretch of road.

On February 10, 2025, my sister and I were driving back from Sam's Club in Waldorf. As we traveled, we noticed a truck in the right-hand lane flying down the road at an alarming speed. We exchanged worried glances and shook our heads, aware of the potential danger. As we approached the intersection of 210 and Fort Washington Road, the traffic light turned red. To our horror, the truck sped through the red light without even attempting to slow down. In that terrifying moment, I could only thank God that no one was crossing the road as the light changed. I could vividly picture the devastating consequences of such reckless driving—cars flying through the air, lives shattered in an instant. At the speed the driver was going, it would have been impossible for anyone to survive a collision.

As a former defensive driving instructor, I understand the critical importance of adhering to speed limits. Every mile per hour over the limit not only extends the stopping distance but also significantly increases the likelihood of being involved in an accident. Reckless drivers who choose to disregard speed limits endanger not only their own lives but also the lives of everyone else on the road.

The incident I witnessed is a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced enforcement and increased fines to deter speeding on Indian Highway 210. By passing HB3039, we can take a crucial step toward making our roads safer for all. I urge you to support this bill and help protect our community from the dangers of reckless driving.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Monroe
President
South Lawn Citizens Association

TESTIMONIAL SUPPORT FOR HB-349.pdf

Uploaded by: Rev. Dr. Robert Screen

Position: FAV

TESTIMONIAL SUPPORT FOR

HB-349

Dear Delegates,

The definition of the term, “**Criminal Negligence**” states; **An action, or non-action, that shows disregard for the safety of others, even when the risk is made plain.**

The residents of the 14 mile span of Indian Head Highway have suffered **95** traffic fatalities in the last **17** years.

Since 2018 this highway received its first speed camera growing to the current six in the year 2024, with a new speed camera contractor, (**Jenoptik**), and state-of-the-art cameras as well.

The first six weeks of operations; (2 weeks of July, 4 weeks in August), produced 18,165 Citations. The first 7 months of operations, inclusive of January 2025, produced 53,879 Citations. Each of the six cameras for each of the 7 months since July of 2024 recorded speeds of over 100 MPH high end speeds for each month with one exception of 97 MPH for one camera for one month.

In 7 months 7,579 offenders have 2-4 citations; 1,339 offenders with 5-9 citations and 230 offenders with 10-14 citations.

In 7 months 32,792 offenders were recorded going 12-15 miles over the 67 MPH speed camera buffer; 1,173 going 30-39 MPH over and 482 going 40 MPH or higher over the 67 MPH buffer

We experienced for the first time capturing an individual speeding on our 55 mph highway going **190 mph!**

From Governor Moore’s office, the Work Zone Citation Tier Level Bill passed last year with flying colors, because of the horrible accident that killed six individuals in the work Zone.

This makes our third year seeking to pass the same principled model of this same bill structure, were our community has lost **17 individuals in this three year period!!!**

Why is there a distinction?????

We've been told decisions in the General Assembly are data driven.

To not pass **HB-349**, would not just make this rule a fallacy; **IT WOULD BE CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT!!!**

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen Sr.

Facilitator / MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee

Background and Status of the MD 210 Speed Camera P

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Additional HB 349 Support -Ron Weiss

Background and Status of the MD 210 Speed Camera Program

*This is based on my 7 years of MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee membership and is **not official PGPD information**.*

1. Transition to a New Speed Camera Vendor

- Over the last **two years**, Prince George's Police Department has been transitioning to a new vendor for automated speed enforcement.
- **Automated enforcement programs** are typically outsourced to private vendors, who provide the technology and operational support.
- Prince George's County has gone through **three vendors** since the program began in **2010**, each transition bringing **lessons learned**.
- The **previous vendor** had significant **data reliability issues** and **technical failures**.

2. Issues with the Previous Vendor

- One of the major **red flags** with the previous vendor's system was that **no citations were issued for speeds above 89 mph**, despite community reports of extreme speeding.
- After **1.5 years of investigation**, it was determined that a **software bug** was **discarding high-speed violations**.
- The lack of accurate data **misrepresented the extent of the speeding problem on MD 210**, weakening enforcement efforts.

3. Improvements with the New Vendor (Since Mid-2024)

- A new contract was secured at the **start of 2024**, and the **first six cameras** were installed on MD 210 by **July 2024**.
- These new cameras are **highly advanced**, providing **dramatic improvements** in speed enforcement accuracy.
- **Key findings:**
 - The new system issued **5-10 times more citations** than the previous vendor.
 - The **speed data now aligns more closely** with community observations.
 - Citations for **extreme speeding (above 89 mph)** are now being recorded properly.

HB 349, Support (Ron Weiss).pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

HB 349, Support

Ron Weiss, Fort Washington

Because HB 349 will help save lives on MD 210, I ask that you join the communities surrounding 210 in supporting HB 349.

We want to feel safe on MD 210 and get home safely to our families, but we don't feel safe.

Our district police commander likens MD 210 to a Beltway with pedestrian crosswalks and traffic lights.

HB 349 would implement a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210, a dangerous stretch of road where 95 lives have been tragically lost in the last 17 years. As a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, I have worked for 7 years to make MD 210 safer, I believe this legislation is a critical step toward improving safety and saving lives on this high-risk roadway.

Since 2009, the state has enforced a flat \$40 fine for speed camera violations, regardless of how fast a driver exceeds the speed limit. While this fine may be an adequate deterrent for minor infractions, it fails to address the more serious and reckless behavior of drivers who are grossly exceeding the speed limit, sometimes reaching speeds of 100 mph or more. The flat fine does little to discourage these extreme speeders, who present the greatest danger to other motorists and pedestrians.

A tiered fine structure would ensure that penalties are proportionate to the severity of the violation. By imposing higher fines on drivers who far exceed the speed limit, the law would send a stronger message to those engaging in dangerous speeding, while still maintaining fairness for those committing lesser infractions. This approach would create a more effective deterrent, encouraging safer driving behaviors and reducing the risk of future fatalities on this hazardous stretch of road.

Speed cameras have already proven their worth in many areas by reducing speeding and preventing accidents. However, without the proper enforcement mechanisms, their impact is limited. A stronger penalty structure is necessary to address those drivers who ignore the current \$40 fine and continue to put lives at risk by speeding excessively.

This bill has the same tiered fines (\$60 - \$500) as in the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act sponsored by Lt. Governor Miller for an unoccupied work zone.

By supporting this bill, you would help protect the lives of everyone who uses this MD 210 and prevent more families from experiencing the devastating loss of a loved one. We have the tools to make this road safer, and with your help, we can ensure that they are used effectively.

Results from the new MD 210 speed cameras indicate that there are **on average over 7,600 vehicles being cited for travelling 67 MPH per month or more on MD 210. One vehicle was clocked at an outrageous 190 MPH.**

Citation statistics for over five months of operation of the new cameras show that the cameras are effective in slowing traffic. Citations in January 2025 are 46% of what they were in August 2024.

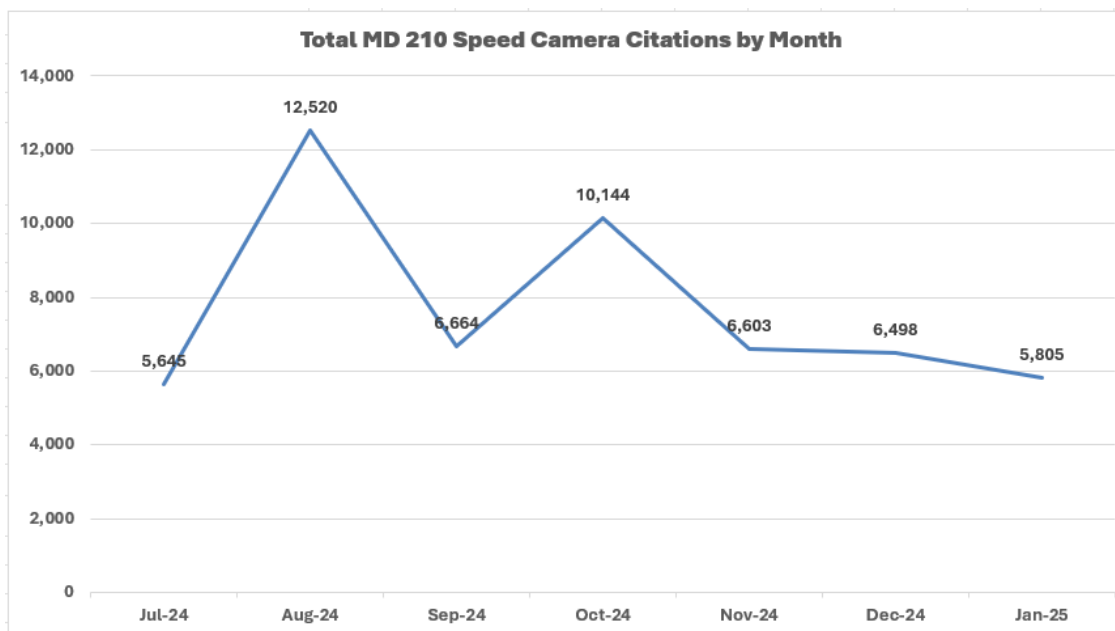
However, the same statistics also show that the current fixed \$40 fine does not deter drivers who drive to speed. Nearly 21,000 vehicles sped at 71 MPH or more during the period July 2024 – January 2025. That is 97 vehicles per day. MD 210 averages more than 2 vehicles per day speeding at 95 MPH or more.

Please support life-saving legislation – HB 349.

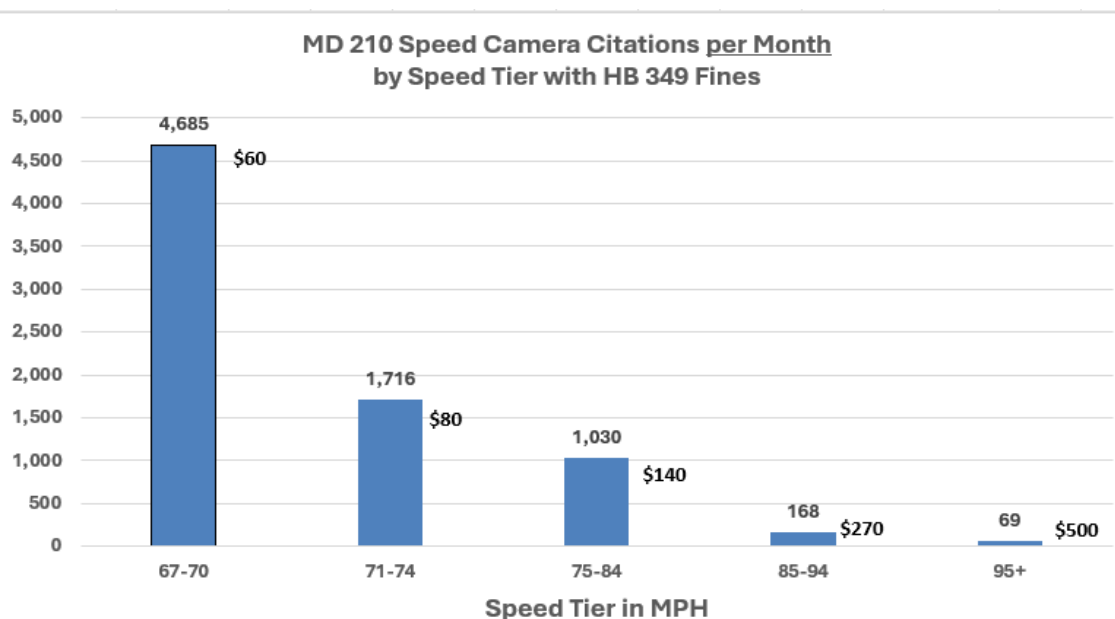
Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information or if I can assist in any way.

Additional information:

1. HB 349 does not have additional fines for repeat offenders.
2. Funds from uncontested citations, over and above those needed to operate the 6 MD 210 speed cameras, are required by law to go to SHA to be used to improve MD 210 safety.
3. To date, the MD 210 speed camera fines sent to SHA in accordance with the law total \$1,321,606.53. They have been used to:
 - a. Install flex posts to prevent illegal shoulder use for left turns at MD 228 (Berry Road) and MD 210.
 - b. Install **advanced hazard beacons** at intersections to alert drivers of approaching signals.
 - c. Upgrade traffic signals at key intersections, including MD 228, MD 373, and Fort Washington Road.
4. Enhance pedestrian safety features, including new crossings, countdown pedestrian signals, and accessibility improvements.
5. The new MD 210 speed cameras have been effective:



6. But there are some drivers who need a bigger enforcement stick:



MD210 Bill - SB 485.pdf

Uploaded by: Sandra T Hall

Position: FAV

MD210 Bill - SB 485

I support - SB-485.

SB 485 would implement a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on MD 210 - Indian head Highway.

As a greatly concerned citizen and member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, this legislation's goal is a critical step towards improving the safety and quality of life those who live, work and visit family and friends in this area who have use this stretch roadway.

The state has enforced a meager \$40 fine for speeding no matter how fast you're going.

While this fine may be an adequate deterrent for minor infractions, it fails to address the more serious and reckless behavior of drivers who are grossly exceeding the speed limit, sometimes reaching speeds of 90 miles or more. A Forty dollar fine does little to discourage these extreme speeders, especially after being a survivor of MD 210 hit & run accident myself.

In August of 2019, my husband and I were traveling on 210 when we were involved in a 4 car accident. The driver was speeding, and didn't allow enough stopping distance. The driver hit us and fled the scene leaving an entire bumper and debris. My husband was taken to the hospital. To this day, he's still suffering from severe back pain. His doctor recently ordered another back support device for him.

The state has mandated a meager \$40 fine for speeding no matter how fast you're going which has only fueled more speeding and deaths.

A tiered fine structure would ensure that penalties are proportionate and HOPEFULLY get aggressive drivers to seriously consider their actions.

Thank you

Sandra T Hall

Member MD210 Traffic Safety Committee

HB 349 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Franklin

Position: FAV



Town of Forest Heights

5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745-1998
(301) 839-1030
Fax (301) 839-9236

Troy Barrington Lilly
Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jamilah McDonald – Ward I
Shaneese Little – Ward I
Jonathon Kennedy II – Ward II
Theresa Brownson – Ward II
Taunya Hines – Ward III
Paula Noble – Ward III

February 10, 2025

Re: Support for HB 349 - Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Town of Forest Heights respectfully submits this letter in strong support of House Bill 349, sponsored by Delegate Valderrama and The Prince George's County Delegation.

Maryland Route 210 is a vital thoroughfare in our community but has long been a corridor of concern due to high-speed violations that compromise safety. Over the years, numerous accidents, injuries, and fatalities have occurred on this stretch of highway, many of which could have been prevented by stricter enforcement and deterrents to reckless driving.

HB 349 proposes a tiered penalty structure that escalates with the severity of the speed violation. This approach not only serves as a strong deterrent to excessive speeding but also emphasizes the importance of maintaining safe driving practices. Additionally, by repealing the termination provision for the speed monitoring system, the bill ensures continued oversight and enforcement, which are critical to safeguarding the lives of residents and commuters.

For the Town of Forest Heights and other Prince George's County municipalities, this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing road safety and protecting the well-being of our residents. The increased penalties and the permanence of speed monitoring systems will foster greater compliance with traffic laws and help mitigate the dangers posed by high-speed travel on Maryland Route 210.

We respectfully urge the Committee to give HB 349 a favorable report. Together, we can make Maryland Route 210 a safer road for everyone. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Troy Barrington Lilly
Mayor, Town of Forest Heights

PGCex_Support_HB 349.pdf

Uploaded by: Sasha Desrouleaux

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 349: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210 PG 306-25

SPONSORS: The Prince George's County Delegation

HEARING DATE: February 21, 2025 at 1:00PM

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive urges **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 349: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210 PG 306-25**, which increases civil penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210.

Since the implementation of speed cameras in 2019, the portion of Maryland's Indian Head Highway which falls inside the Prince George's County borders, has seen a total of 29 fatal collisions, 16 of which involved pedestrians. This is a crisis to which both long and short-term solutions must be applied with haste.

The Prince George's County Police Department has stepped up, and while we can plan to do more, our teams currently on the ground welcome *any* additional help from the State. Through heavy enforcement by our patrol officers, special assignments funded by overtime, and joint operations with the Maryland State Police, PGPD has invested massive resources and man-hours into making this Maryland roadway safer.

The speed monitoring systems currently in use have shown a demonstrable effect in reducing speeding on the highway and our residents—your neighbors, are thankful for that. However, despite the current speed monitoring enforcement, coupled with the best efforts of the PGPD and our increased enforcement, this deadly stretch of Maryland 210 is still averaging approximately 5 fatalities a year.

Furthermore, an analysis of speed camera data from August through December 2024 revealed a troubling trend: 1,173 repeat offenders were detected. Of those, 906 offenders had five or more citations, and one driver had over 60. This significant number of individuals repeatedly exceeding the speed limit underscores the need for

stronger deterrents to modify driver behavior and enhance safety on this corridor. The current flat fine of \$40 is not substantial enough to modify motorists' behavior. We believe that higher fines for increased speeds will help create a safer Maryland 210 *for all*.

The passage of HB 349 would provide additional tools for law enforcement to use to improve traffic safety and help protect the many motorists and pedestrians who travel on Indian Head Highway.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS HB 349** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB0349 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Tamara Brown

Position: FAV

Tamara Davis Brown, Esq.

P.O. Box 1292

Clinton, MD 20735

February 19, 2025

Members of Maryland General Assembly
Environment & Transportation Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Support for HB0349-Speed Monitoring System for MD 210 – The Highway of Death

Dear Delegates:

Thank you for your public service to the residents of Maryland. I know you agree, regardless of your political leanings, that every life precious, priceless and worth saving. As public servants and fellow humans, we must do all that we can to save a life.

Supporting HB0349 does just that. Some drivers believe that roadways are their personal routes to travel to get to their destinations at any rate of speed and as reckless and distracted as they want to be. No care or concern for fellow drivers and other users of the roadways seem to be of importance to them.

Speed limits were placed on America's highways and roadways for a reason – to allow for all of us to get to our destinations safely without harming, injuring or killing another driver, pedestrian or cyclists. The fact is the higher the speed, the increase in the likelihood of serious injuries and fatalities will occur.

Maryland 210 in Prince George's County has seen more than enough fatalities so much so to be deemed the Highway of Death. It unfortunately leads the state and the northeast corridor in fatalities.

Our County's new traffic cameras are doing their jobs in ticketing once a driver is clocked 11 miles over the speed limit. However, the \$40 fine is not much of a deterrent, and we have many repeat offenders. We also have reckless drivers, driving in excess of 100 mph, which almost 50+ miles per hour over the speed limit. They are debased and have no regard for their own life and the lives of others driving or walking around them. HB0349 attempts to address this issue.

I am copying the details about this bill of my fellow member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee who is present to provide oral testimony and answer questions:

*“I am writing to respectfully urge your support for **HB 349-25 (SB 485)**, legislation that would implement a tiered fine structure for speed camera violations on **MD 210 (Indian Head Highway)**. This road has tragically claimed **95 lives over the past 17 years**, making it one of the deadliest in Maryland.*

As a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, I have worked for seven years to make this road safer. This legislation is a critical step in reducing fatalities and protecting the lives of motorists and pedestrians on this high-risk corridor.

Why MD 210 Needs Tiered Fines

*Since 2009, Maryland has enforced a flat **\$40 fine** for all speed camera violations, regardless of how far a driver exceeds the speed limit. While this may deter minor infractions, it is ineffective against **extreme speeders**—some driving at over **100 MPH**, endangering countless lives.*

*A **tiered fine structure** would ensure penalties are proportional to the severity of the violation. By imposing higher fines on drivers who significantly exceed the speed limit, this bill would deter the most dangerous speeding behaviors while maintaining fairness for lesser infractions.*

Key Features of HB 349-25

- *Aligns with the **Maryland Road Worker Protection Act**: fines range from **\$60 to \$500**, based on the level of violation.*
- *Addresses excessive speeding, such as the **300+ vehicles per day** clocked at **67 MPH or more** and those traveling at reckless speeds like **190 MPH**.*
- *Maintains fairness while enhancing enforcement effectiveness, encouraging safer driving behaviors.*

Evidence of Speeding on MD 210

Recent data from MD 210 speed cameras highlights the need for stronger deterrents:

- ***Citations decreased by 72%** in just five months (August to December 2024), showing **cameras are effective at reducing overall speeding**.*
- *However, during the same period, **16,000 vehicles** still traveled at **71 MPH or more**, with **over 100 vehicles daily** exceeding this speed.*

- **Repeat offenders are a significant issue: nearly 1,200 drivers were cited five or more times, and one individual amassed 60 citations in just five months.**

Why Other Measures Have Fallen Short

- **Physical road modifications** have been tested but found ineffective. Major infrastructure changes are prohibitively expensive and time-consuming.
- **Law enforcement staffing** is limited, leaving speed cameras as the **primary enforcement mechanism** on MD 210.

Clarifications About HB 349-25

1. **Does the bill impose additional fines for repeat offenders?**

- No, HB 349-25 does not add extra penalties for repeat violations.

2. **How are funds from citations used?**

- Revenue exceeding operational costs is legally directed to the **State Highway Administration (SHA)** to fund safety improvements on MD 210. Please refer to the attached HB 435 Ch 606 of 2023 - MD 210 Report (December 2024), for details.

3. **Are speed camera citations contestable?**

- Yes, citations include language informing violators of their right to contest the fine in court.

Conclusion

HB 349-25 offers a practical, life-saving solution to the chronic speeding problem on MD 210. By implementing tiered fines, Maryland can deter dangerous driving, protect residents, and prevent more families from enduring the pain of losing loved ones."

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask that you vote IN FAVOR of HB-0349 and move it out of committee.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tamara Davis Brown

Member MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee