

SafeRoadsMD Support - HB 0988.pdf

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

**Support HB 0988 -
Speed Monitoring on
MD 200 ICC**

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES MD HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR HB 0988**

February 19, 2025

TO:

Honorable 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 Favorable Report on HB 0988 – Speed Monitoring on MD 200 ICC

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

Representing SafeRoadsMD and advocating for Marylanders, I respectfully encourage **your favorable report on House Bill 0988 - “Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector).”**

The time for action is now.

Maryland House Bill 0988 is not just another traffic safety measure—it is a necessary and long overdue step toward reducing speeding-related crashes on the MD 200 Intercounty Connector (ICC). As you know, unchecked, chronic, excessive speeding on this 60 mph speed limit toll road continues to endanger law-abiding drivers. There’s no doubt that excessive motor vehicle speeds also cause increased noise in neighboring communities as well. Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) and Montgomery County Police cannot keep up with enforcement demands alone, due to landmark serious staffing shortages. The statistics paint a stark picture:

- **168 crashes on an 18-mile stretch from January - November 2024.**
- **153 crashes, 1 fatality, and 33 injuries in Montgomery County alone.**
- **Uncontrolled speeding forces safe drivers to face unnecessary risk and pressure daily.**

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

The ICC is not an ordinary highway—it is an aggressive-speed corridor where a subset of drivers regularly exceeds 75 mph, creating dangerous environment for those who obey the law.

HB 0988 provides a simple, proven solution: **placing speed enforcement cameras along the ICC to hold speeders accountable and prevent crashes before they happen.**

Public opposition? **There is none.** Each of the past three years, speed camera legislation has been submitted and reviewed in the Maryland General Assembly. Besides internal agency questions and uncertainty over jurisdiction and funding, no credible public opposition surfaced. *Only strong, consistent community advocacy and support for using time-proven technology to reduce the speeding, danger and noise.*

As we all know, the Maryland Transportation Authority, or MDTA, owns and operates the ICC. This EZ Pass toll road is likely MDTA's most profitable net income generating roadway. However, the first value in MDTA's Mission is to "deliver safe...transportation" on Maryland's toll roads. (The words "safe" or "safety" appear 4 times in the agency's Mission statement.) If safety is truly *the top priority* for the State of Maryland, then HB 0988 is a straightforward, clear step.

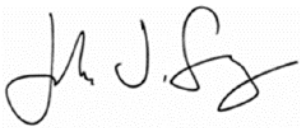
Ideally following passage of HB 0988, SafeRoadsMD and other advocates will be monitoring MDTA's commitment to safety in its progress toward installing multiple electronic speed enforcement devices along the roadway in Montgomery County. On behalf of the thousands of safe drivers as well as neighboring communities, we look forward to average speeds much closer to the ... 60 mph speed limit.

The data is clear: speed cameras work. The **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** incontrovertibly confirms that **properly implemented speed camera programs reduce crashes and fatalities by up to 54%** at monitored locations. When enforcement resources are stretched thin, automated technology fills the gap—delivering safety without pulling officers away from other critical duties.

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and members of the ENT Committee, thank you for your time and dedication to making Maryland's roads safer.

We urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 0988** and move this critical legislation forward. The people of Maryland deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,



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

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board, Greater Olney Civic Association, Brooke Manor Estates HOA

HB 988 - MoCo_Wenger_FAV (GA 25).pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Wenger

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 988

DATE: February 21, 2025

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector) MC 10-25

This bill authorizes the Maryland Department of Transportation Authority (MdTA) to place speed monitoring systems on the portion of Maryland Route 200 (the Intercounty Connector, known as the “ICC”) located in Montgomery County. If the MdTA decides to exercise this authority, it must comply with the same public notice requirements and other protocols as local jurisdictions do now in accordance with § 21-809 of the Transportation Article. In addition, House Bill 988 specifies that civil penalties collected by the District Court resulting from citations issued using a MdTA controlled speed monitoring system be remitted to the MdTA. Finally, to assist the MdTA, the bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to allow the MdTA access to the SHA’s existing speed monitoring systems and vendor contacts.

Montgomery County believes the use of speed monitor cameras on the ICC is justified and will improve the safety of all users of the road. Therefore, the County respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee advance this legislation.

HB0988-2Written.pdf

Uploaded by: Mindy Badin

Position: FAV

Please Support HB0988

February 19, 2025

To:

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

From:

Mindy Badin, Transportation Committee Chair
Greater Olney Civic Association
4212 Charley Forest Street
Olney, MD 20832
minbad001@yahoo.com

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce:

Because of the excessive speeding on Maryland Route 200, I strongly support the passage of HB0988 "Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems-Maryland Route 200 MC10-25."

Having lost my son Brett as he was crossing the street to meet some friends for dinner, I have been advocating for safer streets for the past five years. I believe my experiences give me a personal perspective on roadway safety.



Speeding is the root cause of many traffic crashes and fatalities; Route 200 is a wide open highway with light traffic, and the speeds are extreme. I have personally seen cars whizzing by easily going 20, 30 miles or more over the speed limit. For this reason the crashes on this roadway are particularly severe. In 2023 alone there were 153 crashes on the ICC.

Installing automated speed monitoring systems on the ICC will provide an effective means of controlling the out-of-control speeds and curbing the reckless driving taking place on that roadway. Automated speed monitoring systems are proven to reduce speeding, making our roads safer for all users.

Approving HB0988 will help insure public safety by reducing the speeds on Maryland Route 200. I thank you and the Environment and Transportation Committee members, and I urge you to submit a favorable recommendation for HB0988.

Sincerely,
Mindy Badin

HB0988 - MDTA - LOS - Montgomery County - Speed Mo

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 988 – Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 200 (Intercounty Connector)

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) supports House Bill 988, which authorizes MDTA to place and use a certain number of speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 200 – the Intercounty Connector (ICC) – in Montgomery County and provides for the operation of these speed monitoring systems. MDTA believes this bill will help maintain safe travel conditions along the ICC.

The MDTA is concerned with speeding and aggressive driving on its roadways. The MDTA Police are committed to speed enforcement on the ICC and all its facilities. The MDTA Police will continue to initiate efforts to enforce traffic violations on the ICC, including high visibility enforcement campaigns. However, the ability to use automated enforcement (AE) provides an additional tool MDTA can leverage to combat this dangerous driver behavior.

As drafted, the legislation is not a violation of MDTA's Trust Agreement because the installation of the speed monitoring systems is permissive, leaving MDTA the legal and financial discretion to implement the systems. Most importantly, the proposed legislation provides that civil penalties resulting from citations using a speed monitoring system controlled by the MDTA shall be remitted to the MDTA. It is imperative that this language be retained, as it creates an exception to the general process and ensures MDTA receives the fees from speeding violations along the ICC. Without this assurance, the MDTA does not have a revenue stream to offset the costs associated with the enforcement program.

A reliable estimate of MDTA's costs to implement this bill is challenging as the Authority does not operate a system for similar services and would need to hire additional staff (one program administrator and an ombudsman) and procure a vendor to provide this service. However, based on prior versions of a similar bill and using comparative data from the State Highway Administration's (SHA) existing work zone program, the estimated annual cost of the program to add cameras to the ICC is approximately \$1.5 million, before any offset is applied. MDTA appreciates the sponsor's decision to allow for cost recovery from citation funds as a way to offset this new responsibility and the associated costs of the speed monitoring systems.

The Honorable Marc Korman
Page Two

HB 988 specifies that the MDTA has the discretion to engineer the solution for speed monitoring systems on the ICC, including the number of speed monitoring systems and whether the deployed solutions will be mobile or fixed. The legislation also ensures that the MDTA has the needed flexibility to operate the appropriate speed monitoring program to address speeding on the ICC.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request the Committee grant House Bill 988 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Ryon
Manager, Government Relations
Maryland Transportation Authority
410-387-5253

Matt Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

HB 0988 - Lombardo Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Raymond Lombardo

Position: FAV

HB 0988

Written Testimony of Raymond Lombardo, 2316 Hidden Valley Ln, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Committee members:

I am writing to support this legislation to install speed cameras on the ICC as an important first step to help address the rampant speeding and racing that occurs on the ICC. Those of you who live near this road, or regularly use it, know from personal experience and/or constituent complaints that speeding on this road has gotten out of hand. While this legislation may have been controversial 10-15 years ago, prior to the widespread adoption of speed cameras in the State of Maryland, the ubiquitous nature of speed cameras in Maryland today makes this bill an absolute “no brainer” in plain terms to help bring average speeds down, increase safety, and reduce noise. Arguments against this bill are either “straw man” arguments or arguments designed to preserve bureaucratic prerogative.

As I noted, the installation of cameras on the ICC is a first step. Many of you are aware, or should be aware, that during nice weather, particular on weekend evenings, the ICC is used as a racetrack for “crotch rocket” style motorcyclists and other drivers who race. These bikes often have no plates, or the plates are obscured so that they cannot be captured by cameras. And state law prohibits police chase. So, unfortunately, we have a class of lawless motorists who are most deserving of apprehension and punishment from a public safety and noise perspective, but who routinely escape any consequence for their antisocial and dangerous behavior. The lack of effective response to this public safety issue manifested itself in the horrible injuries suffered by Montgomery County Police Sgt. Patrick Kepp, who was trying to apprehend a dangerous, speeding motorist with a long list of prior dangerous driving offenses. This is all a long way of saying that while I appreciate the Montgomery County Delegation’s support for this measure, and support its passage, I would also urge you all to recognize that this is a first step, not a last step, and that the State needs to take other actions that credibly deter reckless speeding on the ICC and other state highways where it is a problem. Whether that solution is the return of Montgomery County’s helicopter, the use of drones, or some other solution that the State Police recommend, is open for further discussion. But the current state of affairs is simply not defensible because the only motorists who are ticketed are those who at least have the decency to stop when they see flashing lights, whereas those who are the real problem escape.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I appreciate your efforts on behalf of our State.

Sincerely,

Raymond Lombardo

HB 988, Support (Ron Weiss).pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

HB 988, Support

Ron Weiss, Fort Washington

Because **HB 988** will help save lives in Maryland, I ask that you join all the safety-minded Marylanders in supporting this vital bill

We all want to feel safe on our roads and get home safely to our families. Our experience in Prince George's County with new, accurate speed cameras on MD 210 show the cameras are effective in slowing traffic on a high-speed highway.

As a member of **SafeRoadsMD**, I know that the ICC has speeding issues like those we have in Prince George's County on MD 210. MD 200 is very similar to MD 210, and I expect that Montgomery County will have similar results in slowing drivers.

HB 988 will save lives on MD 200 by reducing the risk of catastrophic crashes caused by people who drive at unconscionable speeds.

Please support life-saving legislation – HB 988.

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