

March 5, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 808 – Prince George’s County Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – School Bus Stops***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 808 and offers the following information and suggested amendments for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 808 allows Prince George’s County to use stop sign monitoring systems at school bus stops on local or State highways if authorized by local law or the State Highway Administration (SHA), respectively. Like the process currently in place for authorized traffic control device monitoring systems, SHA would need to review plans and technical documents from the County for requests on State highways, issue permits, and fabricate and install signs notifying drivers that traffic control device monitoring systems are in use on State highways. SHA does not have existing State resources to absorb these additional traffic control device permit requests and signage activities; consequently, SHA would be required to take steps to recover costs from the County for any systems it approves.

Alternatively, SHA respectfully suggests an amendment to remove the requirement for SHA to place signs providing notice that stop sign monitoring systems are in use. SHA contends that installation of signage should be a County responsibility as part of the larger system installation. If this language is not amended, then funds generated from the stop sign monitoring must be used to cover SHA costs for the signage.

Finally, the bill does not address where the funds go, after paying for the cost of administering the program. The SHA supports the goal of directing fines to public safety enhancements, to address public safety needs on the roads where the violations occurred. Practically, funds collected on State roads should be retained by or directed to the State Highway Administration to improve safety on the State road in need of safety measures. This will ensure a unified response, where both State and local roads are improved to ensure the safety of Marylanders within the county, whatever their mode of transportation.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 808.

Respectfully submitted,

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