

## PLEASE SUPPORT SB 520

"Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Safety Corridors"

# MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 520

January 31, 2025

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Chair Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair Judicial Proceedings Committee Maryland General Assembly 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc. (202) 468-7682, <u>JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org</u> <u>SafeRoadsMD.org</u>

Dear Sen. Smith and Sen. Waldstreicher:

I am writing to express SafeRoadsMD's strong support for SB 520 - Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Safety Corridors," which will help reduce excessive speeding and enhance safety by expanding the use of automated enforcement beyond traditional work zones and other more "conventional" placements of speed cameras.

SB 520 is a crucial step toward protecting Maryland's most vulnerable road users - pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals - using personal conveyances and mobility devices. This bill authorizes the State Highway Administration to deploy speed monitoring systems in high-risk areas and priority corridors identified in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, addressing growing concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Key reasons to support SB 520:

#### Addresses Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

 By focusing on high-risk corridors, the bill aims to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, which have been increasing statewide.

#### • Encourages Safer Driving Behavior

• Studies consistently show that automated enforcement effectively reduces speeding and crash rates in areas where cameras are deployed.

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### • Funds Road Safety Improvements

• Unlike general revenue-generating traffic enforcement, funds collected will be dedicated to safety enhancements on Maryland roadways.

According to ZeroDeathsMD, there were 555 road fatalities in Maryland in 2024, including 142 pedestrians. This staggering number highlights the urgent need for proactive measures such as SB 520.

Automated enforcement on MD 210 has already demonstrated success in reducing speeding outside of work zones. Lower speeds lead to fewer and less severe crashes, ultimately saving lives. SB 520 will extend these proven benefits to other critical areas across the state.

I urge you to support this life-saving legislation. Please feel free to reach out if you need additional information or if I can assist in any way.

Sincerely,

John J. Seng, Chair

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD board