

March 25, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 371 – Prince George’s County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 5 (PG 308-25)

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 371 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB371 authorizes the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 5 (MD 5) in Prince George’s County, subject to placement and signage requirements. It requires revenue collected from violations to be used for State and local highway and pedestrian safety improvements on and in the vicinity of MD 5 in Prince George’s County. It also requires real-time display of a driver’s traveling speed for a speed monitoring system and generally relates to the use of speed monitoring systems on MD 5.

Maryland is committed to the goal of Vision Zero by 2030 – this requires MDOT to work with our local and state partners to implement smart solutions to help save lives. Speeding is a contributing factor in over one-third of all fatal crashes nationwide. In 2023 alone, speed was a factor in 7,705 of the crashes which occurred on Maryland roadways. Tragically, there were seven vulnerable road user (VRU) fatalities along MD 5 in Prince George’s County in 2023 and 2024. Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration demonstrates that the risk of death to a VRU is as high as 85% likelihood when a vehicle is traveling more than 40 mph. As such, obedience to posted speed limits is a critical factor in saving lives.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers speed safety cameras a proven safety countermeasure. FHWA reports that fixed unit speed safety cameras can reduce crashes on urban principal arterials by up to 54 percent. Further, research has shown that the estimated economic benefits of reduced crashes substantially exceed the total fines paid by violators. The use of speed monitoring systems on Maryland roadways is another resource local law enforcement has in their toolbox to reduce speeds, correct driver behavior, and ultimately create safer roadways for all.

The State Highway Administration notes that money collected on State highways, after paying for the cost to implement the program, would continue to be directed for highway safety purposes on or near where the violations occurred. This aligns with the goal of speed monitoring systems – improving Maryland’s roadways so that they are safe for all.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee considers this information during its deliberation of House Bill 371.

Respectfully submitted,

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