

SB 500-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 500

February 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 0500 -Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems - Interstate 83

POSITION: **Favorable**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 500.

Senate Bill 500 authorizes the City to increase the number of operating speed cameras on the City's portion of Interstate 83 from two to four as well as remove the sunset provision for the program.

Without SB 500, the speed monitoring program on I-83 would expire in June 2026, removing a key enforcement tool that has contributed to this decline in crashes and improved driver compliance.

The Maryland Department of Transportation analyzed six years of crash data (2018–2023) along the I-83 corridor, identifying a total of 1,903 crashes during this period. The data reveals a significant decline in crashes in 2022 and 2023 compared to the previous four years—evidence that speed monitoring is effectively enhancing roadway safety. Even with the current camera systems in place, Baltimore City still ranked third among jurisdictions in fatal crashes which shows that more still can and needs to be done in order to improve roadway safety.

By expanding and making this program permanent, this bill ensures that Baltimore City can continue to reduce speed-related accidents, protect drivers and pedestrians, and maintain safer road conditions on one of its most critical highways.

During 2024, the City issued more than 172,000 citations for speed monitored violations occurring on Interstate 83. Based on this data, we assume that doubling the number of cameras will reduce the number of tickets issued by each camera by about 20%. While the number of tickets issued per camera would decrease, by doubling the coverage of automated enforcement would further deter aggressive and speed-related incidents along the corridor.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 500.

SB 500 Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems –

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 500

Bill Title: Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems – Interstate 83

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Hearing Date: Feb 4th 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Esteemed Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I write today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 500, which seeks to expand and enhance traffic safety measures along Interstate 83 in Baltimore City. This legislation increases the number of speed monitoring systems permitted on this critical roadway from two to four and makes permanent the authority to deploy these systems.

Interstate 83 serves as a major transportation corridor through Baltimore City, facilitating significant commuter traffic. Unfortunately, excessive speeding and reckless driving along this stretch of highway continue to endanger motorists, pedestrians, and the broader community. The implementation of speed monitoring systems has been instrumental in reducing dangerous driving behaviors, and increasing their presence will only strengthen these efforts. By expanding enforcement capabilities, SB 500 enhances public safety, deters reckless driving, and helps prevent avoidable accidents.

Additionally, this bill removes the current sunset provision, which would otherwise cause the authorization for speed monitoring systems on I-83 to expire in 2026. Traffic safety is not a temporary concern—it is an ongoing priority that demands sustained attention and resources. By making this authorization permanent, SB 500 ensures that Baltimore City has the necessary tools to maintain safe road conditions without interruption.

As with all automated enforcement initiatives, transparency and community oversight remain key. Under existing law, the use of speed monitoring systems requires approval from the local governing body following reasonable notice and a public hearing. This guarantees that their deployment is conducted responsibly and with public input.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 500. This legislation is a measured, effective, and necessary step toward making Interstate 83 a safer thoroughfare for all who travel it.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory V. McCray
45th District