



Chair Marc Korman
and Members, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 19, 2026

House Bill 601 – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program – Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Maryland Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. GGWash supports HB 601, which would add the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville to the state’s existing stop sign camera pilot program.


These bills are personal to me: on May 7, 2025, my dog and I were crossing Thayer Avenue in Silver Spring, one block from our house and behind an elementary school. We were in a legal, unmarked crosswalk when a driver ran a stop sign and hit both of us. The driver showed no remorse: he stepped out of the car and immediately said “Your dog is fine.”

The driver, who lives on the block where he hit us, has a record of traffic violations across Maryland and Virginia. While his insurance found him at fault and settled with me, he will face no real consequence for his actions. The Montgomery County Police Department failed to send an officer to the scene and refused to file a police report due to lack of proof.

This is why automated traffic enforcement matters. Michael Paylor, division chief at the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, was recently quoted in Bethesda Today saying that many drivers in the county are “desensitized” to stop signs and “disrespect” them.¹ This is why MCDOT has repeatedly rejected my neighborhood’s requests to install all-way stop signs at the intersection where the driver hit me and my dog, or at another nearby intersection where a driver hit an 11-year-old boy in a crosswalk earlier this year.

Instead of refusing to install basic safety infrastructure, we should hold drivers accountable for obeying the law. In just two months after Prince George’s County began its stop sign camera

¹ <https://bethesdamagazine.com/2025/11/19/east-silver-spring-demand-pedestrian-safety-improvements/>

The Washington, DC region is great  and it can be greater.



pilot, the town of Colmar Manor found a 38% decrease in stop sign violations, while the town of Morningside saw violations fall by half².

When that driver ran into me and my dog, I incurred over \$1,700 in doctor and vet fees. My dog has scars that will never heal. That's to say nothing of the anguish of reliving that moment every day when we cross that street. I don't want anyone else to experience what we did that day—or worse. For that reason, we ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Dan Reed
Maryland Policy Director
Greater Greater Washington