



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 601 - Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Gaithersburg and Rockville MC 5-26

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 19, 2026

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 601, which would enable the municipalities of Gaithersburg and Rockville to protect school zones by authorizing localities to enact legislation, after notice and hearing, allowing the use of stop sign monitoring cameras on local streets and state highways that are in school zones.

We thank the General Assembly for passing legislation last year authorizing a pilot in the City of Takoma Park. Takoma Park has several busy State highways and local main streets that are routes to school for pedestrians and cyclists. We also have bus routes that drop off students at or near busy intersections with stop signs.

Takoma Park's participation in its stop sign camera pilot has proven to be highly valuable for our community. Not only has it directly supported enforcement at critical intersections, but it has also sparked a citywide education campaign focusing on the dangers of speeding and the importance of traffic safety. Residents are reporting noticeable changes in driver behavior, with more motorists now coming to complete stops at intersections and driving more cautiously overall. This combination of enforcement and education is contributing to a safer environment for students, cyclists, and all pedestrians throughout our city.

We have observed a troubling amount of stop sign violations not only at intersections near our schools, but also in other areas beyond school zones. It is important to recognize that schools are not the only places youth frequent—many young people travel to libraries, recreation centers, and other community facilities throughout the city. As more data becomes available, and if this pilot program proves as effective as we anticipate, the City of Takoma Park would support expanding its use beyond school zones to enhance safety in our business districts and residential neighborhoods.

Takoma Park supports the use of camera monitoring systems because they provide an unbiased enforcement mechanism. Moreover, we have found that the camera monitoring systems (and the citations issued to violators captured via these cameras) to be a highly effective deterrent to speeding and other traffic violations.

The City of Takoma Park supports HB 601 and urges a favorable committee vote.

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