

Bill: SB0045 - Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore County in the Lutherville-Timonium area. I use designated highways within my residential area very frequently that would be affected by SB0045, specifically Seminary Ave (MD-131), Dulaney Valley Rd (MD-146) and portions of York Rd (MD-45). Additionally, as a cyclist, I often ride on Seminary Ave (MD-131), Park Heights Ave (MD-129), and Old Court Rd (MD-133). All of these roads have sections controlled at 35mph or less and travel through residential districts where pedestrians, cyclists and children may be present.

Although there are alternatives to automated enforcement, especially road design and police enforcement, these each have significant limitations. Road redesign is costly and takes place over a long term and can not be used to address areas of speeding and dangerous driving quickly. Police enforcement is possible, but diverts limited policing resources and not all roadways have safe stopping points for pulling over drivers.

A recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that the presence of automated traffic enforcement cameras “reduce collisions and injuries by 5 and 2.5% per month on average, respectively. Cumulatively, over the seven months following their introduction, collisions declined by 30% and injuries by 16%.” [1]

In addition to formal evidence, I know that I have seen driver behaviors change and their speeds reduce after automated traffic enforcement in school districts, on I-83 in Baltimore City and on I-695 in the construction zones. I feel safer driving on I-83 and in the construction zones as a result and I have experienced the reduction in crashes on my commute. I would very much like to see such behavior change and safer roads in my neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I hope that the committee will vote in favor of this legislation.

Henry Cook  
Timonium, MD

[1] A. Stagoff-Belfort, J. Ben-Menachem, & B. Beck, Can speed cameras make streets safer? Quasi-experimental evidence from New York City, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 122 (50) e2520328122, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2520328122> (2025).