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April 1, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 1630 – Queen Anne’s County – Speed Monitoring System  
– U.S. Route 301***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1630 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

As amended, HB 1630 authorizes the State Highway Administration (SHA) to place and use speed monitoring systems in Queen Anne’s County on US Route 301 (Blue Star Memorial Highway) approaching the intersections of, or in between, MD 405 (Price Station Road) and MD 19 (Roberts Station Road).

US 301 in Queen Anne’s County has been the site of frequent, severe, and high-speed related crashes, particularly at the MD 405 median crossover. Between January 2020 through July 2025, there were 66 crashes involving vehicles crossing US 301 South from MD 405 West with speed consistently cited as a contributing factor. In July 2025, two fatal crashes occurred within three days and claimed three lives, which followed fatal crashes in February 2022 and February 2023. The SHA has closed the US 301 at MD 405 crossover twice in two years to implement near-term safety improvements.

SHA added rumble strips, digital speed signs, improved channelization, and a mandatory headlight-use designation at this location, in addition to tree trimming to improve sight lines. Further, design is currently underway to pursue J-Turn improvements north of the US 301/MD 405 intersection. J-Turns are a safer alternative to traditional four-leg intersections (the location’s current configuration), because they greatly reduce right-angle crashes, the crash type most responsible for fatalities and serious injuries at this location. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes J-Turns as a proven safety countermeasure for their ability to reduce left-turn conflicts. The J-Turn improvements for the US 301 and MD 405 intersection are several years away from completing design, permitting, procurement, and construction.

Despite the completed short-term investments and the developing long-term investments, speed remains a critical and challenging factor at this location. Automated speed enforcement (ASE) will slow down vehicles traveling at high rates of speed while the long-term J-Turn safety project is in development. As amended, HB 1630 includes a sunset that is

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aligned with the anticipated long-term project completion schedule, so that the impacts of the improvements can be appropriately evaluated.

SHA appreciates the collaborative discussions with Queen Anne's County and the bill sponsor. HB 1630 as amended will offer the fastest delivery of ASE on US 301 by leveraging SHA's ongoing ASE procurement, and will provide a funding source for the unfunded construction of the US 301 J-Turn safety improvements. SHA strongly supports efforts to reduce crashes on US 301, particularly at this dangerous location, and looks forward to working collaboratively with Queen Anne's County and the bill sponsor to improve safety along the corridor. The bill has the support of the Queen Anne's County Delegation and the Queen Anne's Board of County Commissioners.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information and issue House Bill 1630 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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