



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 936

DATE: March 4, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator West, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support with Amendments (Montgomery County Department of Transportation)

Vehicle Laws – Bus Obstruction Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones

Senate Bill 936 prohibits a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in a bus stop zone. It also makes a technical change for references of “bus lane monitoring system” to “bus obstruction monitoring system” and clarifies that such systems address obstructions of bus lanes and bus stop zones for the purposes of automated enforcement.

While the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will always support efforts to improve bus operations and in turn the travel experience of our transit users, although well intended, the Department has two primary concerns with the proposed bill language that would present challenges in our ability to enforce such a law.

1. First, the bill lacks a clear definition of what constitutes a bus stop zone. In order to avoid court challenges, a clear definition is necessary so that those reviewing evidence packages will have a clear understanding of whether the bus stop zone is being obstructed or not. The definition needs to account for the differences in bus stop zone size and location. Further, clearly delineating bus stop zones along the street will require additional signage, which is not without expense.
2. Second, we take issue with the exception that allows vehicles in a bus stop zone if the driver is “actively engaged” in the loading or unloading of passengers. MCDOT prefers that this exception be struck from the bill, recognizing that these activities can occur at other locations along the block face or along a side street.

The County is committed to expanding transportation choices. Improving transit performance and customer satisfaction is part of this effort which is the goal of this legislation. For this reason, MCDOT supports the legislation but believes the Committee should address the aforementioned issues before it advances the bill to the Senate Floor.