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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 487

**Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors
(Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026)**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Committee Members

For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County and member of the JPR Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 487 Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors (Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026)

This Bill is designed to advance Maryland’s Vision Zero goals to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways. By using speed monitoring systems to effectively reduce speeds on high-risk corridors where vulnerable road users are present, its primary goal is to improve safety for vulnerable road users—such as pedestrians and cyclists.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the likelihood of a pedestrian fatality increases dramatically as rates of vehicular speeds increase. For example, a pedestrian has an 85% risk of fatality when struck by a vehicle traveling 40 MPH and over.

The most vulnerable road users today are members of our family, our friends, and our neighbors – and we must use every tool made available to us to ensure they are safe when using our highway system.

This bill authorizes the State Highway Administration, or a local jurisdiction with enabling legislation, to operate speed cameras on high-risk safety corridors identified in the federally required and data-driven Vulnerable Road User Assessment. Similar to the Work Zone camera program that SHA operates, revenues collected from this program will pay for the operational cost of the new program. Any additional revenues will then be directed to projects and program that improve highway safety across Maryland.

Contents of this legislation also establishes clear guidelines for the use and operation of speed monitoring systems on safety corridors and ensures they are placed strategically in coordination with the appropriate local jurisdiction.

At this time, I'd like to introduce Will Pines, Maryland's State Highway Administrator, who will walk us through the specifics of this legislation and the program in practice. After hearing the following information, I urge you to give a favorable vote to this bill.

Thank you

Shaneka Henson, Senator