ACEC/MD
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES/MARYLAND

Hon. William C. Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB487 - Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors (Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026)
Position: Support

The Maryland Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC/MD) represents Maryland's private-sector engineering firms that design and deliver the transportation, water, environmental, and public works infrastructure that local governments and the State rely upon every day. **ACEC/MD supports this bill.**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland (ACEC/MD) is increasingly alarmed by the growing number of lives lost and serious injuries occurring on Maryland's roadways, especially among pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users.

SB487 offers a practical, data-driven solution that supports Maryland's *Vision Zero* goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries. ACEC/MD supports this legislation because it focuses on evidence-based strategies that improve safety where it is most urgently needed.

SB487 is important because it:

- Targets high-risk areas. The bill allows the State Highway Administration (SHA) and participating local jurisdictions to place speed monitoring systems in designated safety corridors—directing enforcement to areas with the highest crash risks for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Emphasizes prevention over reaction. Automated enforcement technology is proven to reduce crashes before they happen. According to the Federal Highway Administration, fixed camera systems can reduce collisions on busy arterial roads by as much as 54 percent.
- Promotes accountability on the road. HB 256 ensures that drivers traveling at dangerous speeds in key corridors face consequences for risky behavior, fostering safer conditions for all roadway users.

In 2024, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) reported more than 570 traffic fatalities statewide, with roughly one in four involving people who were walking or biking. Allowing speed monitoring systems in specific safety corridors is a critical, evidence-based step toward reversing these tragic outcomes.

For these reasons, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland

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respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB487. We appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to protecting everyone who travels on Maryland's roads.

Respectfully,

Maria K. Donovan

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Executive Director
ACEC/MD

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