
January 28, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Information – SB 175 – City of Cumberland – Speed Monitoring Systems –
Tractor Trailers on Interstate 68***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 175 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

SB 175 authorizes the City of Cumberland to use speed monitoring systems on portions of I-68, where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour for Class F (tractor) vehicles operated with Class G (trailer) freight trailers or semitrailers.

The Department is aware of the safety concerns regarding commercial truck crashes and brake fires along the section of Interstate 68 that passes through the City of Cumberland. The Department recognizes these events are dangerous and have significant impacts on the local community and other motorists.

Maryland is committed to the goal of Vision Zero by 2030 – this requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to work with local and state partners to implement smart solutions to help save lives. Speeding is unfortunately a contributing factor in over one-third of all fatal crashes nationwide.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers speed safety cameras a proven safety measure. FHWA reports that fixed unit speed safety cameras can reduce crashes on urban principal arterials by up to 54 percent. Further, research has shown that the estimated economic benefits of reduced crashes substantially exceed the total fines paid by violators. The use of speed monitoring systems on Maryland roadways complements local law enforcement as an additional resource to reduce speeds, correct driver behavior, and create safer roadways for all.

The SHA would like to inform Committee members that a capital Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project is scheduled to be operational later this year and will address commercial vehicle traffic speeds on I-68. In addition, the Department is working with the Maryland State Police (MSP) to add a Virtual Weigh Station in the County. Virtual Weigh Stations (VWS) use

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Page Two

hidden roadside sensors, like Weight in Motion (WIM) scales and cameras, to remotely screen commercial trucks for weight, size, and safety violations at highway speeds.

At present, neither the City of Cumberland nor Allegany County have the local enabling ordinance necessary to install speed monitoring systems on I-68. Additionally, under current best practices, speed monitoring systems are used to monitor and enforce speeds of all moving vehicles rather than specific types of vehicles. The SHA is working with the bill sponsor to address this concern.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during their deliberations of Senate Bill 175.

Respectfully submitted,

April Moeller
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-210-5780

Matthew Mickler
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090