



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 938 – Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George’s County – Crosswalk
Monitoring Systems
SUPPORT

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 938.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support this legislation, which aligns with our Vision Zero priority. The bill authorizes the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties on highways located in a school zone maintained by a local jurisdiction, if authorized by the governing body of the local jurisdiction, or on State highways located in a school zone, if authorized by the State Highway Administration. The systems may be used to record and cite violations when the driver of a vehicle fails to come to a stop at a crosswalk that is being used by a pedestrian.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- Similar to red-light enforcement, crosswalk monitoring systems would help increase enforcement efforts to ensure motorists stop completely at a crosswalk in school zones. These automated monitoring systems are an effective approach for more consistent enforcement of traffic laws at specific locations.
- Targeting the use of this technology in school zones is prudent, as it would increase safety and protection for children, parents, and teachers walking to and from schools.
- The technology would be a Police force multiplier, as local police departments do not have enough officers to deploy to all crosswalks in school zones.

HB 938 is a major step forward that would provide added protection for our children and school communities. By allowing the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in school zones in the areas of greatest concern, we have a tremendous opportunity to reduce crashes, save lives, and change driver behavior. Keeping our children safe from drivers who are increasingly distracted and do not follow traffic safety laws is essential. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 938 with a favorable report.