



Senator Will Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 4, 2026

**RE: SB 921 – FAVORABLE – Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems
– Exemptions from Liability – Vehicle Rental Companies**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) represents approximately 110+ members, including 20 material producers, contractors, engineering firms, and associate members, supporting a 7,000-person workforce. MAA actively collaborates with regulatory agencies to advocate for the asphalt industry, ensuring fair regulations at both the state and federal levels. Additionally, we support adequate funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

SB 921 would repeal the existing liability exemptions for traffic control signal monitoring and speed monitoring systems that currently exclude vehicles owned by rental or leasing companies from civil responsibility for violations captured by automated enforcement systems.

MAA represents businesses and stakeholders committed to safe, efficient, and equitable use of Maryland's roadways. A core principle underlying that mission is *fairness in enforcement and accountability for roadway behavior*. Current law creates an unequal system of accountability and undermines the deterrent effect of automated traffic enforcement.

Everyone who uses Maryland's roads should be equally responsible for obeying traffic laws and for the consequences of violations. Traffic control signal monitoring and speed monitoring systems are critical tools in improving safety and reducing dangerous driving behavior.

By ensuring that all drivers and vehicle owners are subject to the same enforcement rules and liabilities, SB 921 strengthens the integrity of Maryland's traffic safety framework. Automated systems can only be effective when all motorists are accountable for their actions — without exemptions that allow certain owners to avoid responsibility for violations captured by these systems. For these reasons, the Maryland Asphalt Association urges a favorable report on SB 921.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Smith'.

Tim E. Smith, P.E.
President
Maryland Asphalt Association