

HB0601_FAV_City of Rockville_Montgomery County - S

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Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 601 – Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot
Program – Gaithersburg and Rockville MC 5-26
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri and I thank you for the opportunity to share the City of Rockville's strong support for HB 601. The Mayor and Council thank Delegate Palakovich Carr, Delegate Spiegel, and Delegate Vogel for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support this legislation. HB 601 authorizes the placement of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in Gaithersburg and Rockville under the pilot program authorized for Prince George's County, certain school zones in Baltimore City, and the City of Takoma Park. HB 601 aligns with Rockville's Vision Zero priority. We believe it is a much-needed tool to help our children travel safely to and from school.

In Rockville, we have multiple schools within our borders, including fifteen operated by Montgomery County Public Schools. One of the City's top traffic-related concerns received by the Rockville City Police (RCPD) is stop sign violations. Since January 2020, the City Police have directed patrols for stop sign violations. During this time, the RCPD have issued 470 traffic citations and 4,695 warnings for stop sign violations. Further, the RCPD has handled 23 crash reports in which one or more of the contributing factors was failing to stop at a stop sign. Stop sign enforcement has been and remains an ongoing assignment for on-duty patrol officers. Due to the extremely high volume of requests, it is very difficult for our officers to conduct enforcement when they are handling calls for service. We believe the use of this technology would be a police force multiplier and incentivize changed driver behavior similar to what we experienced with speed and red-light enforcement systems.

HB 601 is a major step forward that would provide added protection for our children and school communities. By allowing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones, 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 stop sign laws is essential. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 601 with a favorable report.

HB 601 - Spiegel - Favorable - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Jayson Spiegel

Position: FAV

JAYSON L. SPIEGEL
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March 25, 2026

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

Re: Request for Favorable Report HB0601, Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Gaithersburg and Rockville MC 5-26

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0333. I am providing this testimony in my personal capacity as a Gaithersburg resident. Although I am a member of the Gaithersburg City Transportation Committee, the opinions expressed herein do not reflect the opinions of other Central members; they are mine alone.

This local bill passed the Montgomery County House Delegation. The bill would provide Rockville and Gaithersburg with the option to deploy stop sign cameras in school zones. Automated enforcement tools will enable those cities to mitigate risky driving behavior, reduce crashes, and protect students as they travel between school and home.

Traffic fatalities in Maryland dropped by 18% (from 582 to 480), the lowest number in a decade, after years of increasing traffic deaths. Although that is great news, more needs to be done to reach the goal of no traffic deaths or serious injuries by 2030. HB033 is a commonsense bill that authorizes Rockville and Gaithersburg to use automated stop sign cameras in school zones to reduce student pedestrian accidents.

I want to thank the Montgomery County Delegation for their leadership on this issue and urge the Committee to favorably report HB0601.



Jayson L. Spiegel
Gaithersburg, Maryland

SafeRoadsMD Supports HB 601.pdf

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

PLEASE SUPPORT CROSSOVER HB 601
“Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program”

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES MD SENATE JPR COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR CROSSOVER HB 601**



March 23, 2026

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org, SafeRoadsMD.org

RE: Support for HB 601 – “Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program” (Gaithersburg & Rockville)

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of SafeRoadsMD, I respectfully urge your favorable report on crossover House Bill 601, “Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program” (Gaithersburg & Rockville).

This legislation addresses a specific and increasingly dangerous reality in Montgomery County school zones—particularly in **Gaithersburg** and **Rockville**: too many drivers are failing to come to a complete stop at stop signs, placing children at risk at precisely the locations where the law requires the highest level of care.

It’s simple: Maryland law requires drivers to come to a complete stop before entering a crosswalk or intersection. HB 601 focuses narrowly on reinforcing that basic, clearly defined rule of the road.

Yet compliance is breaking down. In **both Gaithersburg and Rockville**, local officials, school staff, and crossing guards consistently report the same troubling pattern: drivers rolling through stop signs in school zones, failing to fully stop before crosswalks, and proceeding through intersections while students are present.

The data reinforce what these real-world experiences make clear. Montgomery County has recorded hundreds of non-motorist crashes in recent years, including dozens tied directly to school trips. Teen

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

pedestrians—particularly ages 15 and 16—are disproportionately struck while walking to and from school. These are real children navigating real intersections every day.

Why does this behavior persist? Too many drivers believe they can get away with it, and grow careless.

With law enforcement resources stretched thin, some motorists have made a calculation that the likelihood of being stopped is low. As a result, compliance with even the most basic traffic control—stop signs—has eroded in places where it matters most.

HB 601 provides a measured, accountable response.

Importantly, this bill ****authorizes—but does not require—**** the Cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville to implement stop-sign monitoring systems in school zones only, and only after enacting local law and holding public hearings. It preserves local control and ensures community input.

The legislation includes strong safeguards:

- Civil citations only, with a maximum penalty of \$40
- No driver's license points and no insurance impact
- Full due process protections
- Prohibition on contractor compensation tied to ticket volume
- Clear public notice and signage
- Required reporting to evaluate effectiveness
- A firm sunset date of June 30, 2029

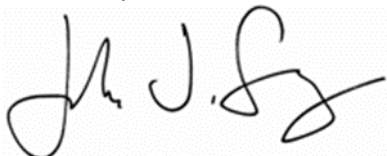
This is not a broad expansion of enforcement. HB 601 calls for a **targeted pilot**, focused on one clearly defined violation—failure to come to a complete stop—at locations where children are most at risk.

Maryland has successfully used similar tools for speed, red-light, and school-bus enforcement. HB 601 applies that same proven, accountable approach to stop-sign compliance in school zones. When voluntary compliance breaks down, measured accountability can restore it.

HB 601 will improve driver behavior, enhance safety at critical intersections, and reduce preventable risks for children walking to and from school. SafeRoadsMD respectfully urges your favorable report on crossover HB 601.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to protecting Maryland families.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng, Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board

Delegate Palakovich Carr - HB 601 - Stop Sign Came

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV

JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

Chair, Early Childhood Subcommittee

Chair, Montgomery County
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 202
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410-841-3037
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 601
Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program –
Gaithersburg and Rockville**

This local bill would enable the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville to use stop sign monitoring systems in school zones. This bill gives each of these municipalities the ability to participate in the existing pilot program that was enacted for Prince George's County in 2024 and was expanded to include Takoma Park and Baltimore City in 2025.¹

School zones contain some of our most vulnerable pedestrians. In Montgomery County, 38% of elementary school students, 25% of middle school students, and 29% of high school students live in their school's walk zone.²

Intersections with a stop sign are significantly more likely than other types of intersections to be the site of a fatal crash, based on nationwide data.³ In Gaithersburg, 20% of crashes involving a non-motorist occur at an intersection with a stop sign.⁴ In 2024 in Rockville, there were 15 crashes within school zones at intersections with a stop sign.⁵ And these statistics don't include the countless near misses that pedestrians face.

Notably, the state-authorized pilot program has many protections built in. Local jurisdictions must authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems by local law and only after providing reasonable notice and holding a public hearing. Before deployment, notice of each new camera must be posted on the local government's website and signage installed near the intersection. Violations are limited to no more than \$40 and can be appealed by the driver. By comparison, a moving violation issued by a police officer for failure to stop at a stop sign is more than double that amount, with the additional consequence of one point on your license. Additionally, local governments

¹ Prince George's: [HB 364 \(2024\)](#), Baltimore City and Takoma Park: [HB 1226 \(2025\)](#)

² Montgomery County Public Schools, March 2020

³ [U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration: Intersection Safety Case Study](#)

⁴ [Gaithersburg Local Road Safety Plan 2024 Study Report](#)

⁵ Data provided by the City of Rockville

must also report to the state on the implementation and effectiveness of stop sign monitoring systems.

Both the City of Rockville and the City of Gaithersburg have committed to improving roadway safety. The City of Rockville adopted a Vision Zero plan, which includes increasing enforcement activities and exploring the expansion of automated enforcement.⁶ The City of Gaithersburg initiated a Local Road Safety Plan to assist in analyzing and prioritizing road safety improvements, which identified intersections, pedestrians, and bicyclists as key emphasis areas.⁷

HB 601 would allow Rockville and Gaithersburg to join the existing stop sign camera pilot program. Both municipalities are in support of this bill. By utilizing automated enforcement, these cities can mitigate risky driving behavior, reduce crashes, and protect students as they travel between school and home.

This local bill passed the Montgomery County House and Senate Delegations unanimously.

⁶ [Rockville's Vision Zero Action Plan](#)

⁷ [Gaithersburg Local Road Safety Plan 2024 Study Report](#), see page 28

HB 601 Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Sy

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV



March 23, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill: HB601 – Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Gaithersburg and Rockville

Position: Support

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I write in support of Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program – Gaithersburg and Rockville.

HB 601 would authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones within the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville, as part of the existing State pilot program that currently applies in Prince George’s County, certain school zones in Baltimore City, and the City of Takoma Park, if authorized by local law. This legislation gives our community an important tool to address dangerous driver behavior at stop signs near schools and to protect children, families, and other vulnerable road users.

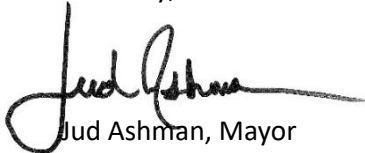
While we continue to invest in engineering, education, and traditional enforcement, there are locations where those strategies alone are not sufficient. Automated stop sign enforcement in clearly marked school zones, as required by state law through appropriate notice and signage, can effectively alter driver behavior, leading to reductions in traffic violations, crashes, and pedestrian injuries.

For Gaithersburg, HB 601 represents a practical, data-driven step toward our broader traffic safety and Vision Zero goals.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg respectfully urges the Committee to support HB 601.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

Takoma Park 2026 - HB 601 FAV - Stop Sign Monitori

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 601 - Montgomery County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Gaithersburg and Rockville MC 5-26
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 25, 2026

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of House Bill 601, which would enable the municipalities of Gaithersburg and Rockville to protect school zones by authorizing localities to enact legislation, after notice and hearing, allowing the use of stop sign monitoring cameras on local streets and state highways that are in school zones.

We thank the General Assembly for passing legislation last year authorizing a pilot in the City of Takoma Park. Takoma Park has several busy State highways and local main streets that are routes to school for pedestrians and cyclists. We also have bus routes that drop off students at or near busy intersections with stop signs.

Takoma Park's participation in its stop sign camera pilot has proven to be highly valuable for our community. Not only has it directly supported enforcement at critical intersections, but it has also sparked a citywide education campaign focusing on the dangers of speeding and the importance of traffic safety. Residents are reporting noticeable changes in driver behavior, with more motorists now coming to complete stops at intersections and driving more cautiously overall. This combination of enforcement and education is contributing to a safer environment for students, cyclists, and all pedestrians throughout our city.

We have observed a troubling amount of stop sign violations not only at intersections near our schools, but also in other areas beyond school zones. It is important to recognize that schools are not the only places youth frequent—many young people travel to libraries, recreation centers, and other community facilities throughout the city. As more data becomes available, and if this pilot program proves as effective as we anticipate, the City of Takoma Park would support expanding its use beyond school zones to enhance safety in our business districts and residential neighborhoods.

Takoma Park supports the use of camera monitoring systems because they provide an unbiased enforcement mechanism. Moreover, we have found that the camera monitoring systems (and the citations issued to violators captured via these cameras) to be a highly effective deterrent to speeding and other traffic violations.

The City of Takoma Park supports HB 601 and urges a favorable committee vote.

City Contact: Talisha Searcy, Mayor
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov