

PGC 301-24 – Prince George's County – Traffic Control Device Monitoring Systems – Authorization Prince George's County Delegation Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

November 30, 2023

Chair and Members of the Prince George's County Delegation,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members, supports bill PGC 301-24, which would authorize the use of traffic control device monitoring systems in Prince George's County.

We know the terrible toll that reckless and negligent driving has taken on Prince George's County residents and visitors, including in the November 20 deaths of 5-year-old Sky Sosa and 10-year-old Shalom Mbah, who were hit by a motor vehicle and killed near their elementary school in Riverdale Park. As of November 30, 2023, Prince George's County has experienced 116 road fatalities including 32 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists. This road carnage must end.

The State of Maryland and Prince George's County must increase their investments in safe transportation infrastructure and at the same time, we must do all we can to educate drivers and provide an incentive for safe driving, via expanded, appropriate traffic enforcement.

Bill PGC 301-24 would add a safe-streets enforcement tool to the county's toolbox, by enabling the placement of automated monitoring devices – cameras – for traffic control devices including Stop signs.

We note that automated enforcement is far more equitable – and inexpensive and scalable – than in-person police enforcement, with no potential for dangerous escalation of traffic stops or discrimination against Black and brown drivers.

Please advance PGC 301-24, to promote safe streets, Vision Zero, and equitable enforcement, and in the blessed memories of Sky Sosa and Shalom Mbah.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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