

## <u>PGC 306-25</u> – Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 – FAVORABLE

December 10, 2024

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

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) is a regional advocacy nonprofit that envisions a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

WABA strongly supports bill PGC 306-25, which would increase penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County.

Reckless and negligent driving takes a terrible toll on Prince George's County residents and visitors. Prince George's County as a whole has experienced 85 road fatalities in 2024 through December 6 including 27 pedestrians and one bicyclist. Ninety-five people have been killed on the 14.4 miles of Maryland Route 210, Indian Head Highway, in Prince George's since 2007. This carnage must end.

Traffic enforcement – if penalties are sufficient to provide an effective deterrent – is a key tool in taming reckless and distracted driving and speeding in particular.

Speed kills. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), "Studies clearly show that higher speeds result in greater impact at the time of a crash, which leads to more severe injuries and fatalities." But current speed-camera enforcement fines are too low to provide an effective deterrent.

The Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024 established graduated speed-camera fines for work-zone speeding. Noting that bill as a precedent, WABA urges that you advance PGC 306-25.

We further 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. This said, traffic enforcement is no substitute for investment in transportation infrastructure that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and rollers.

Please advance PGC 30-25 – and continue to invest in safe pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit infrastructure – to make Prince George's County transportation safer and more equitable for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.