



Environment and Transportation Committee  
Kumar Barve, Chair  
Dana Stein, Vice-Chair

Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 231 - Automated Traffic Enforcement - Implementing Agency

February 10, 2022

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Peter Gray and I represent the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. I am speaking on behalf of the 2000+ WABA members and several thousands of other supporters who live in Maryland.

We urge you to support HB 231, which would authorize Montgomery County to move oversight of automated traffic enforcement from the Montgomery County Police Department to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Automated enforcement is already a great tool to objectively enforce traffic laws without biases, and allowing MCDOT to implement speed and traffic monitoring systems can further move traffic enforcement into civilian hands. Moreover, as such enforcement actions are a significant tool in achieving the County's Vision Zero goals, it is far more efficient to have this enforcement managed by the same agency, MCDOT, that is charged with implementing the County Vision Zero Program.

In addition, according to data in Montgomery County's office of oversight report<sup>1</sup> and an analysis of County data<sup>2</sup>, black and brown residents are disproportionately likely to be pulled over, receive a citation, and to have police force used against them during a traffic stop. This does not result in safer streets – rather, the opposite. This stokes distrust among community members and law enforcement. HB 231 is one step in the right direction to take policing out of traffic enforcement and focus more on automated systems, safe design, and preventative actions to reduce traffic violations and eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2020%20Reports/OLORReport2020-9.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://public.tableau.com/profile/jpreinhard#!/vizhome/MOCOTrafficData/TrafficDataStory?publish=yes>

Therefore, we urge you to support HB 231. Thank you.