



Prince George's County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization – PG
301-24
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

March 26, 2024

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members, supports HB 364, which would authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones 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. Prince George's County experienced 129 road fatalities in 2023 including 39 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists, by far the worst record in the state. 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.

HB 364 would add a safe-streets enforcement tool to the Prince George's County's toolbox.

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 HB 364, 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.

Seth Grimes, WABA Maryland organizer
seth.grimes@waba.org