

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Windsor Mill Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
410-496-4037

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB450
Baltimore County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Residential Districts

Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 15, 2024

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB450 Baltimore County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Residential Districts. The purpose of this bill is to localize decision making for installing new speed monitoring systems.

According to Maryland law, “speed monitoring systems” record images of vehicles traveling 12 mph over the speed limit. These systems have been proven to improve safety on our roads. A 7.5 yearlong study was conducted in Montgomery County where speed cameras were associated with a 62% reduction in the likelihood that a vehicle was traveling more than 10 mph above the speed limit at camera sites. Moreover, there was a 39% reduction in the likelihood that a crash resulted in an incapacitating or fatal injury near the camera site.

Speed monitoring systems are an indispensable tool for keeping our communities safe. State law currently allows local authorities to unilaterally install new systems within a 1/2 mile radius of a school zone. However, within current law, Baltimore County does not have the purview for the placement of speed monitoring devices outside of school zones, instead they must bring that before the State legislature. This leaves a huge gap for Baltimore County residential neighborhoods that are not near a school zone but are still having issues with unsafe speeding on their roads. SB450 enables Baltimore County to join three other counties, in making decisions that directly impact the safety of their constituents. Montgomery County, Prince George’s County and Anne Arundel County, all have local authority in determining speed monitoring placements.

Speeding in residential neighborhoods is dangerous and places the safety of other vehicles, personal property, and above all pedestrians, at risk. Slowing down to a safe speed should not be controversial when the lives and well-being of others are at stake. SB450 ensures that these systems are not being arbitrarily installed throughout our neighborhoods. Installation of a camera requires a traffic study, public input, police involvement and approval of the Baltimore County Council.

Speeding is a local public safety issue that should be handled locally. SB450 empowers local officials in Baltimore County to make informed decisions around speeding, improving the safety of our communities and responsiveness of local government.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report on SB450.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks