



House Bill 256

Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors (Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026)

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: February 12, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 256. This bill authorizes the State Highway Administration (SHA) to establish a “Safety Corridor” program aimed at reducing serious injuries and fatalities among vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals using mobility devices in segments of highways identified as high risk.

This legislation provides a practical, data-driven tool to address persistent safety challenges on Maryland’s roadways by authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems within designated safety corridors. In doing so, this bill enhances public safety efforts by directly addressing reckless driving in areas where vulnerable road users are most at risk.

HB 256 empowers local governments to use these systems in safety corridors on highways under their own jurisdiction or on State highways if authorized by an SHA permit. This collaborative framework recognizes that local governments are often best positioned to identify roadway conditions, community needs, and appropriate safety interventions, while maintaining consistency with State oversight. Specifically, this flexibility allows counties to tailor safety interventions to the specific needs of their communities.

Ultimately, this bill represents a balanced approach to modernizing traffic accountability. By pairing targeted enforcement authority with local flexibility, strong safeguards, and reinvestment in safety infrastructure, the bill strengthens Maryland’s ability to protect its most vulnerable road users. As such, MACo respectfully urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 256.