



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

October 29, 2018

Gregory Slater, Administrator  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
State Highway Administration  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3601

Dear Mr. Slater:

In 2014, the Montgomery County Council (Council) passed legislation to implement a school bus safety camera program, as authorized under State law. Given the potential dire consequences of drivers illegally passing stopped school buses, the Council and the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) believe that this program is of the utmost importance in keeping the County's children safe.

During the most recent school year, the Montgomery County Department of Police (Police Department) issued more than 34,000 citations from cameras installed on 500 Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) buses—less than one-half of the entire bus fleet. The fact that the Police Department has recorded and issued so many violations is an unfortunate sign of the necessity of this program.

While MCPS is working to install cameras on its remaining school buses, the school system and the Police Department are involved in ongoing efforts to increase drivers' awareness and understanding of the law prohibiting the passing of a school bus that is stopped on a roadway and operating its flashing red lights. While reviewing the bus camera program in September 2018, the Council's Education Committee learned that the five MCPS bus stops with the most bus camera violations are all along State roads:

- 8800 block of Colesville Road (US 29)
- 1400 block of East-West Highway (MD 410)
- 300 block of North Frederick Avenue (MD 355)
- 5100 block of River Road (MD 190)
- 8800 block of Piney Branch Road (MD 320)

Overall, these five locations account for 7,295 (or 14%) of all the bus camera violations issued in Montgomery County since October 2016.

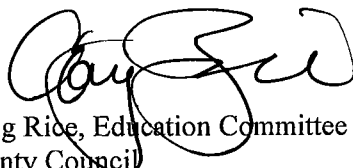
The Council and Board respectfully request that the State install signage or other notification mechanisms near these five bus stops to remind drivers of the requirement to stop for a school bus. We believe that an additional visual reminder could provide an effective deterrent to continued high numbers of violations at these locations. We are happy to work with the State to determine the most appropriate signage or other notification mechanism for each location.

The Council and the Board appreciate your consideration of this request as part of our continued efforts to ensure the safety of our schoolchildren. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Hans Riemer, President  
County Council



Craig Rice, Education Committee Chair  
County Council



Michael A. Durso, President  
Board of Education

Cc: Councilmembers  
Board of Education Members  
Andre Futrell, District Engineer, State Highway Administration, District 3