



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Phil Scott
Governor of Vermont
Office of the Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Governor Scott:

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports Senate Bill (S.) 184 and respectfully requests you sign it into law. This legislation will create an automated speed enforcement (ASE) pilot program in active work zones and ensure Vermont benefits from this proven, lifesaving technology to curb speeding and the deadly consequences.

Vermont has one of the highest speeding-related traffic fatality rates in the country. In 2021, 30 people were killed on Vermont's roads, and 41 percent of the crash fatalities involved speeding.ⁱ Comparatively, speeding was a factor in 29 percent of U.S. motor vehicle fatalities that year.ⁱⁱ In addition, Vermont incurred \$625 million in economic harm, which is equivalent to approximately \$1,000 per resident each year, due to motor vehicle crashes according to a 2019 analysis.ⁱⁱⁱ Traffic safety is a serious and costly issue in urgent need of verified solutions.

Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety, especially for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users (VRUs). Crash tests show that speed upticks of even five to ten miles-per-hour (mph) greatly escalate a driver's risk of injury or death.^{iv} The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.^v

Speed safety cameras are proven to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.^{vi} A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that speed safety cameras alone resulted in a 19 percent reduction in the likelihood that a crash caused a fatal or incapacitating injury.^{vii}

Simply put, speed safety cameras save lives. Enactment of S. 184 will improve safety for Vermont families and visitors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

ⁱ State Traffic Safety Information for Vermont (2021), NHSTA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.

ⁱⁱ NHTSA. (2023). Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2021. U.S. Department of Transportation, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813435>.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.

^{iv} Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.

^v Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at <https://aaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf>.

^{vi} Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>.

^{vii} Effects of Automated Speed Enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland on Vehicle Speeds, Public Opinion and Crashes, IIHS, August; available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2097>.