



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

November 14, 2024

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

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 House Bill (HB) 4132 and respectfully requests you sign it into law. This legislation will permit automated speed enforcement (ASE) in active work zones on state-maintained roads and ensure Michigan benefits from this proven, lifesaving technology to curb speeding and the deadly consequences.

In 2022, 1,124 people were killed on Michigan's roads, and 27 percent of the crash fatalities involved speeding.ⁱ In addition, Michigan incurs more than \$12.3 billion in economic harm annually due to motor vehicle crashes, which is equivalent to \$1,232 per resident each year and much higher than the national average of \$1,035.ⁱⁱ 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) including in active work zones. 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.ⁱⁱⁱ 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.^{iv}

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.^v 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.^{vi}

Simply put, speed safety cameras save lives. Enactment of HB 4132 will improve safety for Michiganders and visitors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase
President

ⁱ State Traffic Safety Information for Michigan (2022), NHSTA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.

ⁱⁱ 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>.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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>.

^{iv} 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>.

^v 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>.

^{vi} 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>.