



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger  
Governor of Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Spanberger:

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) 994 and respectfully requests you sign it into law. This legislation expands, in northern Virginia, the ability to use speed safety cameras to “safety red zones” on roads with speed limits of 45 miles per hour (mph) or less located in a priority pedestrian corridor or high-risk pedestrian corridor to protect vulnerable road users (VRUs) and others.

Speeding is a major contributor to Virginia traffic fatalities as 35 percent of fatalities in 2023 involved speeding, and Virginia’s proportion of speeding-related fatalities is higher than the national average of 29 percent.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Virginia incurs approximately \$6.5 billion in economic harm annually due to motor vehicle crashes, which is equivalent to a “crash tax” of \$756 per resident each year according to a 2019 analysis.<sup>2</sup> When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to over \$8.3 billion.<sup>3</sup> Traffic safety is a serious and costly issue in urgent need of proven solutions.

Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. 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.<sup>4</sup> Speed increases also immensely impact pedestrians and other VRUs. 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.<sup>5</sup>

Speed safety cameras are verified to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended for adoption by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.<sup>6</sup> A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in Montgomery County, MD found that speed safety cameras alone resulted in a 19 percent reduction in the likelihood that a crash caused a fatal or incapacitating injury.<sup>7</sup> A study by Carnegie Mellon University of speed safety cameras in Philadelphia, PA found a 90 percent reduction in speeding and an approximately 50 percent decrease in crashes and injuries relative to the most similar arterials, all arterials and local roads in Philadelphia.<sup>8</sup>

We appreciate your consideration and ask you to sign HB 994 to enhance safety for VRUs and others and save lives.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

<sup>1</sup> Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jun. 2025, DOT HS 813 721, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813721>.

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2026, available at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.

<sup>4</sup> 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>.

<sup>5</sup> 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>.

<sup>6</sup> Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at <https://www.ntsb.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Effects of Automated Speed Enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland on Vehicle Speeds, Public Opinion and Crashes, IIHS; available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2097>.

<sup>8</sup> Evaluating the Effectiveness of Urban Speed Cameras on Traffic Safety in a Period of Dramatic Change, Carnegie Mellon University, July 2024, available at [https://ppms.cit.cmu.edu/media/project\\_files/Guerra\\_Erick\\_420.pdf](https://ppms.cit.cmu.edu/media/project_files/Guerra_Erick_420.pdf).