

Montgomery County Delegation Hearing
December 4, 2023
Support of Maryland Bill 11-24 – Speed Cameras on MD 200, ICC
Testimony presented by Helene Rosenheim, President
Greater Olney Civic Association

- I am Helene Rosenheim, President of the Greater Olney Civic Association, known as GOCA.
- I'm a longtime Olney resident and community advocate.
- Nearly 50,000 people live in Olney, with a median age of about 42 years old, based on 2021 US census
- Founded in the late 1960's, GOCA today represents nearly 40 dues-paying homeowner and civic associations.
- Central to our mission is to advocate and promote the overall civic, economic, ecological and cultural welfare of the community within the Olney Master Plan area.

- The MD 200 Intercounty Connector cuts through nearly 3 miles of southern Olney, the only major highway within Olney.
- GOCA did not oppose the State's plans to ultimately build the ICC beginning 2007. Although we did argue at the time that with the way development had progressed during the years since the road had originally been planned, it really made more sense to move this road further north. The expectation at the

time was that this highway, *with* a planned 55 mph speed limit, would be a safe road.

- However, since that time, the State increased the speed limit to 60 mph.
- Unfortunately, extremely few drivers respect the revised speed limit. The latest figures from the Maryland Transportation Authority (the MTA) Police indicate average speeds between 70-72mph.
- Given the illegal speeding on this highway, any crash carries a much higher degree of risk of injury and fatality.
- Crashes on this highway have continued to rise over the past several years.
- GOCA understands from firsthand reports from MTA Police and Montgomery County Police, that significant shortages exist in their staffing, and thus, impacts their ability to patrol roads vs. responding to 911 felony calls.
- When the State built this road, the Olney community stood by with the expectation that the State would take every and any means possible to ensure reasonable, convenient but above all, and I emphasize above all, safety first.

- The speed of many of the offenders on this road make physical apprehension difficult, so we encourage the use of technology such as these cameras that will contribute to making our roads and our residents safer.
- We're counting on you, our State elected officials to work together with the Maryland Transportation Authority officials to ensure that safety comes first on this highway cutting through and used by our community.
- We appreciate and fully support the speed monitoring devices bill MC 11-24 proposed by you, Senators Zucker and Kramer, and co-sponsored by you, Delegates Cullison and Crutchfield.
- On our roads, safety must come first, in Olney, and throughout Montgomery County and Maryland.

Thank you.