

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

COUNTY AUTHORITY FOR TRAFFIC CAMERAS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Vote “Yes” on amending 46.2-208/46.2-882.1 and 33.2-214.1/33.2-373

BACKGROUND

- Delegate Holly Seibold is proposing an amendment/re-enactment that would allow counties to install traffic enforcement cameras in any area, not just school zones
- She is also proposing an amendment/re-enactment that would require the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to conduct a traffic study before making any modifications to intersections

DISCUSSION

- Dangerous roadways are “kitchen-table” issues, and it is important to delegate enforcement options to local authorities whenever possible
 - For example, in Fairfax County, there have been two instances in the past year where two vehicles have veered off Gallows Road and into residences, resulting in property damage. Additionally, there have been three pedestrian fatalities in the same area
 - On the other hand, in less populated counties like Clarke County, excessive speeding may not be as dangerous, making this type of enforcement less necessary
- Ensuring pedestrian safety in neighborhoods is also crucial, especially when road "improvements" have not adequately prioritized the safety of pedestrians
- Numerous studies have shown that automated enforcement measures, such as traffic cameras, have positive effects on reducing speeding behavior, accidents, and improving overall safety and quality of life. Please refer to the provided references

CONCLUSION

- Granting counties the authority to install traffic enforcement cameras allows local governments to address local issues according to their specific needs
- Including pedestrian input in decision-making processes is vital for maintaining road safety in neighborhoods
- This proposal is particularly beneficial for suburban and urban constituents, including families who prioritize safe neighborhoods! A campaign win!

References:

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