

SUPPORT HB 20 / HB 21 / SB 336

Topic: Expanding eligible use of speed cameras

Bill Patron: Del Michael Jones, Senator Danica Roem

OVERVIEW:

These bills expand where speed cameras can be used. Currently they are limited to active school zones and work zones, seriously limited how impactful they can be despite how effective the technology is at saving lives.

Encouraging safe biking and walking is a prime strategy to reducing GHGs from the transportation sector and this issue is annually supported by VCN.

HB 20 expands the definition of school zones to make more areas applicable.

HB 21 expands speed camera applicability to anywhere localities choose.

SB336 expands speed cameras to areas with record of traffic fatalities.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Speed Cameras are among the most effective tools for reducing traffic fatalities, especially for pedestrians. Since Fairfax County launched its program, their use has reduced speeding by 24%.
- Speed cameras do not require interaction with police officers, are more fair and less variable, and the existing launch is adequately protective of individual data. They also do not rely on an adequately trained and staffed police workforce.
- Speed is the primary factor of whether a crash will be fatal. Reducing speeding reduces crash energy and increases crash aversion. Even a few mph reduction in vehicle speed can make the difference in the fatality of a crash.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.