



Legislative Summary

O-5-25

Speed Monitoring Cameras

The City of Annapolis Office of Law created this summary for the use of Annapolis City Council members during their consideration of the legislation.

Bill Summary

O-5-25 updates the City Code to ensure it is in line with changes in current state law as well as upcoming modifications set to take effect between 2026 and 2028. This is done by referencing the relevant sections of the Transportation Article and the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Articles that will be changing. Essentially, city laws follow the scheduled modifications in state law.

Background

Maryland began permitting automated speed enforcement (ASE) systems on October 1, 2009.

In 2023, the Maryland Assembly passed several bills concerning the use of speed monitoring systems, also known as traffic or speed cameras, in specific counties across the state, including Anne Arundel County which includes the City of Annapolis.

Annapolis's speed camera law was enacted in 2011 and has not been updated since then.



State Legislation

HB 710/SB 679 established that state law allowing the use of speed monitoring systems apply in Anne Arundel County. The City's Office of Law has determined that the new state law is applicable in Annapolis.

- The law permits speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) in residential areas with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.
- Speed monitoring systems must be authorized by the City Council.
- Before activating a speed monitoring system, the City must publish the location of the system on its website and in a newspaper that has general circulation in the City.
- Additionally, the jurisdiction must ensure that every sign indicating a school zone is placed near a sign that:
 - 1) Indicates that speed monitoring systems are in use in the school zone, and
 - 2) Complies with the specified traffic control device standards set by the State Highway Administration.

The City may recover the implementation costs of the system from the fines generated by the speed monitoring system and may use any remaining balance solely for public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs.

However, if the remaining revenue after cost recovery for any fiscal year exceeds 10% of the jurisdiction's total revenues, the excess amount must be remitted to the Maryland Comptroller.

How Speed Cameras Work

ASE systems use radar technology to measure vehicle speed. If a car is found to be speeding, the system photographs the vehicle and sends a citation to the registered owner. Speed cameras can also detect other traffic violations, such as running red lights.

Maryland law defines a "recorded image" as an image recorded by a speed monitoring system that shows the rear of a motor vehicle and at least two time-stamped images of the motor vehicle that include the same stationary object near the motor vehicle.



Details

O-5-24 strikes the existing Speed Monitoring System section of City Code and renames the section to "Traffic Monitor Systems," enabling the city to regulate other similar systems as they are introduced.

The "Speed Monitoring Systems" will now be the first subsection and will become subsection "A" when a second subsection, "B," is added.

Subsection Details

- 1. Definitions**—The City will follow the State definitions for this section.
- 2. Use Authorized**—The State allows speed monitoring systems, and fines will be collected and used as allowed by Section 7-302 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Maryland Code.
- 3. Citation Prohibition**—The city can't issue speed camera citations until proper signage is installed at the monitoring site, following State procedures. After signs are installed, the City must wait 15 days and provide public notice before issuing citations.
- 4. Use of Fines**—Fines resulting from citations must be paid to the City. Any remaining fines, after complying with State-required procedures, will be allocated for pedestrian safety, road redesign, and transportation improvements in the City of Annapolis.