



Testimony in support of SB 1211  
April 21, 2014  
Alex Doty, Executive Director

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before your committee today on behalf of the 3,000 members of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Walks and Bikes. I am here to speak in support of SB 1211 to create a pilot program to place speed cameras on Roosevelt Boulevard.

In 2012, 14% of fatalities and 7% of injuries in motor vehicle crashes were non-motorized users – the highest percentages on record. It's been estimated that statewide motor vehicle crashes and fatalities resulted in economic losses totaling an estimated \$15.4 billion annually, or \$926 for every person in Pennsylvania. In 2010, there were 121,312 reportable traffic crashes in Pennsylvania. These crashes claimed the lives of 1,324 and injured another 87,949. Although these numbers are the lowest since the 1950s, it doesn't dull the fact that someone in Pennsylvania is killed in a motor vehicle crash every seven hours.

Speed cameras help to control one of the major contributors to fatalities for bicyclists and pedestrians: excessive speed. High speeds reduce the amount of time that drivers have to process information while at the same time increasing the amount of time it takes to bring a vehicle to a complete stop.

Speeding is especially dangerous on urban streets—which, despite the way it was designed, Roosevelt Boulevard definitely is. For pedestrians, speed matters. At 40 mph, a car striking a pedestrian gives that person only a 30 percent chance of surviving. At 30 mph, that chance increases dramatically to 80 percent. At 20 mph, pedestrians struck by a vehicle have an astounding 98 percent chance of surviving. (See Rosen, E., Sander, U. "Pedestrian Fatality as a Function of Car Impact Speed," *Accident Analysis and Prevention* (2009): 41: 531-542.)

Pennsylvanians deserve to travel safely whether they drive a car, take a bus or train, ride a bike or walk. When our streets are not sufficiently safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, we narrow the viable transportation choices for Pennsylvanians unnecessarily.

While it is not the complete answer in and of itself, speed cameras are a vital tool in reducing fatalities and crashes for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.