



**Written Testimony of Richard J. Barcaskey, Executive Director
Constructors Association of Pennsylvania**

**Public Hearing of the Senate Transportation Committee on Automated
Enforcement of Traffic Violations
September 18, 2023**

Good morning Chairman Langerholc, Chairman Flynn and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Rich Barcaskey, Executive Director of the Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania (CAWP), and I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 748, Printer's No. 982. CAWP appreciates the Committee's examination of policy regarding automated enforcement of traffic violations, in particular the enforcement of violations in active work zones.

In 2018, Act 86 was enacted in Pennsylvania with the intent of providing additional safety measures for construction workers in the Commonwealth. Act 86 created a five-year pilot program for the placement of automated speed enforcement on limited access highways in active work zones. The goals of Act 86 included the reduction of speeds in work zones, promotion of worker safety, saving of construction worker and traveler lives, and complementing of existing speed enforcement.

Since the deployment of the automated enforcement program, Pennsylvania has seen positive progress. CAWP issued a report in 2022 including some of the accomplishments of Act 86. Notable data include:

- 1,805 work zone crashes in 2018; 1,753 work zone crashes in 2019; 1,416 work zone crashes in 2020.
- While traffic volume reduced by 13.4% during pandemic lockdowns in 2020, work zone crashes reduced by a greater percentage: 19.2%.
- Speeding vehicles at the start of 2020 peak construction season were recorded at 30%-35%. At the end of the 2021 peak construction season, speeding vehicles were recorded at 18%-20%.
- Excessive speeding vehicles at the start of the 2020 peak construction season were recorded at 5%-8%. At the end of the 2021 peak construction season, excessive speeding vehicles were recorded at 3%.

PennDOT's 2023 annual report on automated work zone speed enforcement reported further progress: a reduction during 2022's peak construction season of speeding vehicles to 17.2% of all traffic, and a reduction of excessive speeding to 2.6%.

Given the five-year authorization triggered by the standing up of enforcement protocols and deployment of equipment within Act 86, the expiration of this important safety measure is imminent. CAWP respectfully urges support for the reauthorization within Senate Bill 748.

CAWP is committed to working with the legislature and other stakeholders across the Commonwealth to protect the health and safety of our construction workers. We look forward to standing ready as a resource for further legislative discussion on automated enforcement efforts.