



Pennsylvania AAA Federation

Honorable Wayne Langerholc Jr
281 Main Capitol.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035

Honorable Marty Flynn
184 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3022

September 13, 2023

RE: AAA Support for School Bus Safety and Automated Speed Enforcement

Dear Chairman Langerholc and Chairman Flynn:

On behalf of the AAA clubs of the Pennsylvania AAA Federation and our 3.2 million state member motorists, thank you for advocating for highway safety by addressing school bus safety and speed enforcement. We support the efforts to improve safety through House Bill 1284 and Senate Bill 748.

Visible traffic enforcement by police remains the most effective means of deterring violations of traffic laws. However, AAA recognizes the role that automated enforcement can play in improving safety for motorists, pedestrians, and other road users by improving compliance with red lights, speed limits, and other traffic control devices. When utilized, automated enforcement systems should be used to improve traffic safety, and not as a revenue source for local governments. The City of Philadelphia Roosevelt Boulevard Automated Speed Camera Annual report dated April 2022 noted that since implementation of the Speed Camera Program, speeding violations at monitored locations have decreased by 91.4% as of November 2021. The program should be extended and expanded to other locations with a demonstrated pattern of violations and crashes or other safety concerns that can be reduced through the use of automated enforcement.

Likewise, the Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and PennDOT-operated highways has been effective in reducing excessive speeding in active work zones. The 2023 Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement Annual Report stated that Pennsylvania has experienced a reduction in work zone crashes since the start of the program. The program has provided improved safety to work zone crews as well as motorists traveling through active work zones.

School buses are the safest way to get children to and from school. AAA supports strict enforcement of laws governing overtaking stopped school buses. Consistent with other AAA policies related to automated enforcement, AAA supports school bus stop-arm cameras as long as they are coupled with a robust public outreach and education campaign. Laws requiring motorists to stop on roads where a school bus is loading or unloading passengers should be as uniform as possible in all jurisdictions.

Thank you again for your efforts to improve school bus and work zone safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Leonard".

Ted Leonard, Executive Director, Pennsylvania AAA Federation