

PS/ED COMMITTEE #2  
April 28, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

April 24, 2014

TO: Public Safety and Education Committees

FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*  
Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst *EMcGuire*

SUBJECT: **Update: School Bus Safety Cameras**

Today the Public Safety and Education Committees will receive an update on the implementation of the school bus safety camera program. Assistant Chief Betsy Davis as well as other representatives from the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and Todd Watkins, Director of Transportation, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), will be present for the discussion.

**Background**

The Council passed legislation in March 2012 enabling the County to implement school bus safety cameras. The purpose of the cameras on school buses is to monitor and enforce violations where vehicles pass a stopped school bus that has its flashing signals, stop sign, and stop arm extended.

**Status Update**

MCPD selected Xerox Corporation in the Fall of 2013 to provide the cameras and related services. The contract term is for three years, which coincides with the end of the Department's other automated enforcement contracts. The fixed rate, turnkey contract is \$250,000 annual for the 25 cameras, and includes maintenance, rotating cameras among buses, and wiring.

MCPD implemented the program in January 2014. Twenty-five buses have cameras, and 75 additional buses will be wired. The additional wiring on buses will allow MCPD to move cameras among high priority routes as needed. During the first three months of operation, 272 citations have been issued, of which 128 have been paid. MCPD has collected \$16,000 in fines. Four cases are scheduled for court.

**Initial Experience:** MCPD and MCPS meet with the vendor on a weekly basis to discuss performance and maintenance issues. MCPD advises that snow and excessive road salt this winter adversely impacted the cameras and photo quality. The original camera system has already been upgraded to include a second camera system due to poor performance.

MCPS and MCPD also continue to work together to identify bus routes. MCPS looks at driver reports over the past few years, and MCPD consults traffic officers and review its citation database to identify problematic routes. The contract terms call for wiring an additional 75 buses. ***The Committee may wish to ask whether any additional bus routes have been identified and the timeframe for wiring the additional buses.***

**Public Education Initiatives:** Initially, MCPD held a press event in January announcing the start of the program. Several local news interviews were conducted, and two County Cable programs reported on the new initiative. MCPD and MCPS are collaborating to produce a “Respect the Bus” public service announcement. This PSA is expected to launch in August 2014. MCPD expects to be advertising at bus stop and on Ride-On Buses beginning in August as well.

**Experience in Other Counties:** MCPD has data on Frederick and Washington counties. In Frederick, 16 citations have been issued to date. Four of these were issued during the 2012 school year and four were paid. Frederick County has 31 buses with cameras installed. In Washington County, 98 citations have been issued. This program began in 2013. There are currently 10 cameras installed, with a goal of installing 20 total. Of the 98 issued citations, 50 have been paid.

**Program Funding:** *No funding has been included for the program in the FY15 operating budget.* MCPD projects that approximately 100 citations will be issued per month during the 10 month school year, resulting in approximately \$112,500 in revenues. This assumes a 90% collection rate. Council staff notes that citation revenues go directly to the General Fund and are not earmarked to pay the \$250,000 contractual obligation to the vendor through the MCPD FY15 operating budget. ***The Committee may wish to ask the Office of Management and Budget how it expects MCPD to meet this unfunded contractual obligation.***

**Proposed Regulation:** The Council received Executive Regulation 18-13, School Bus Safety Cameras, on February 19, 2014. A resolution to extend the time for Council action to June 30, 2014 was approved by Council on March 25 so that the Joint Committee could review the proposed regulation as part of its overall program discussion. The proposed regulation sets the civil penalty for violation at \$125 to conform with the order of Chief Judge of the District Court. This penalty was initially implemented under Temporary Regulation 18-13T, effective January 1, 2014. ***Council staff recommends approval of the regulation as submitted. Council action on the permanent regulation is tentatively scheduled for May 6.***

<u>This packet contains</u>	©
MCPD PowerPoint Presentation	1-12
Draft “Respect The Bus” Flyer	13
Executive Transmittal Memo for Executive Regulation 18-13, <i>School Bus Safety Cameras</i>	14
Executive Regulation 18-13, <i>School Bus Safety Cameras</i>	15-16



**SCHOOL BUS**

**School Bus Safety Camera  
Briefing**

**Montgomery County Council**

**April 28, 2014**

# School Bus Safety Cameras

## Program Status Updates

- **Currently 25 cameras have been installed**
- **75 additional buses to be wired**
- **First Quarter 2014**
  - **272 citations issued**
  - **128 citations paid**
  - **\$16,000 collected in fines**
  - **4 cases scheduled for court**

# Public Education Initiatives

- **Press event was held in January announcing the activation of the program.**
- **Several local news interviews were completed and two County Cable programs.**
- **Producing a “Respect the Bus” PSA with MCPS scheduled to launch August 2014.**
- **Advertising at Bus stops and on Ride-on Buses scheduled to begin in August 2014.**

# Vendor & Contract

- **Xerox Corporation was selected and they also have our Red-light & Speed camera contracts.**
- **Three year(3) contract that coincides to end with our other automated enforcement contracts.**
- **Flat-fix rate, turn-key contract of \$250,000 annually for 25 cameras that includes maintenance, rotation and wiring.**
- **Liquidated damages clause was included to remedy poor performance issues.**

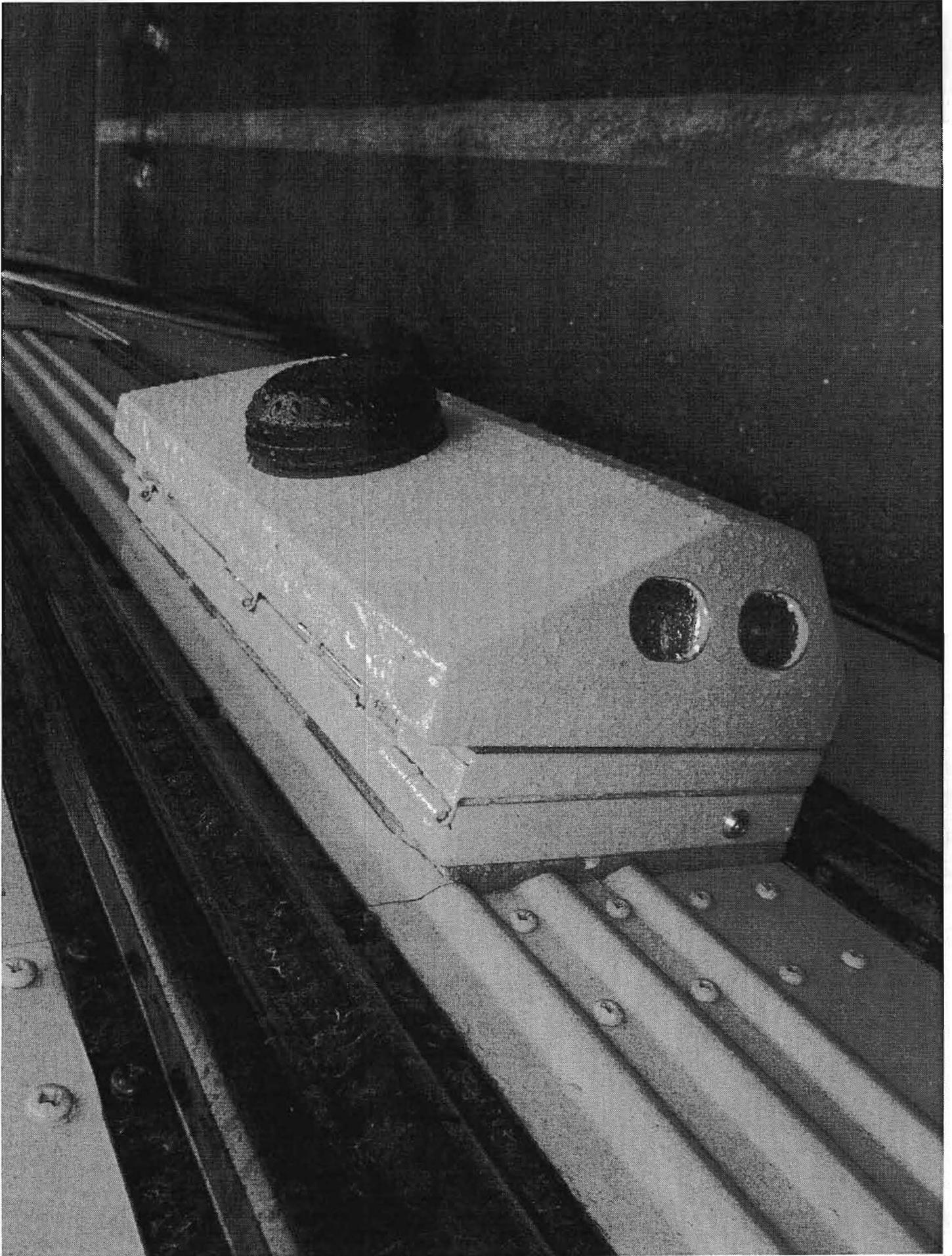
# Site Selection

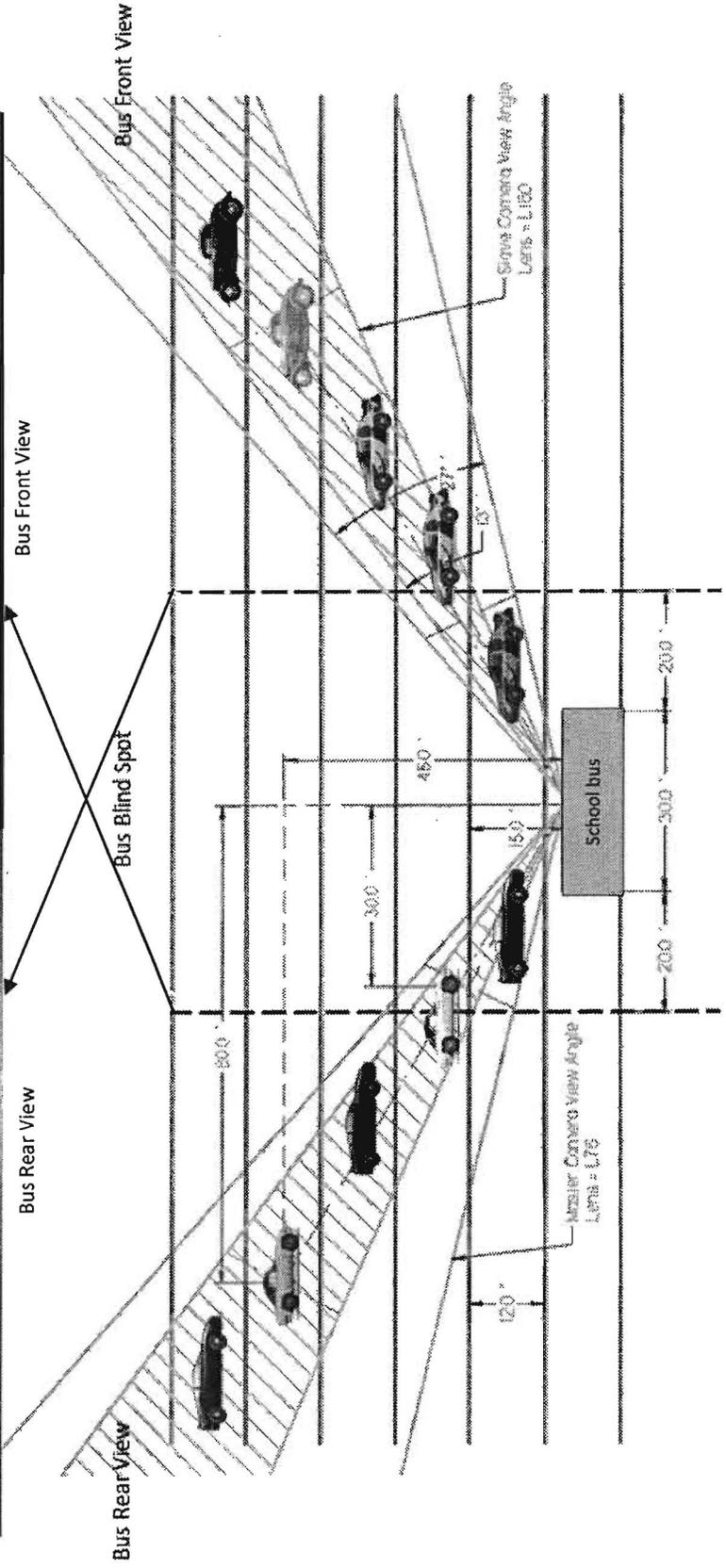
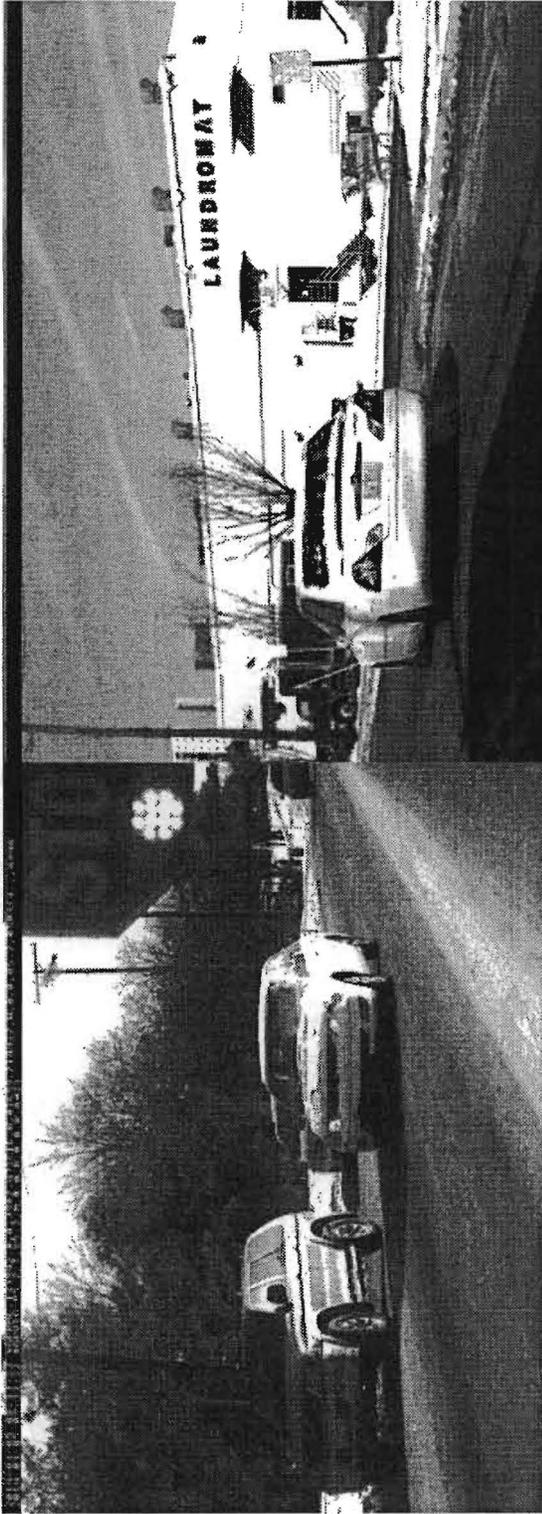
- **MCPS & MCP working on a data driven approach to identifying bus routes.**
- **MCPS driver reports over the past few years.**
- **MCP Traffic Officers consulted and our Citation database reviewed to identify problematic routes.**
- **“Slow Grow” camera deployment and bus wiring until new buses arrive and problem routes identified.**



# School Bus Camera Bus Routes

Bus Depots	High Schools Serviced	Major Roads
Bethesda	Walter Johnson HS	Tuckerman Ln., Montrose Rd., Rockville Pike, Kensington Pkwy, Old Georgetown Rd., Grosvenor Ln., Strathmore Ave., Parklawn Dr.
Clarksburg	Damascus HS Gaithersburg HS	Ridge Rd., Kings Valley Rd., S. Frederick Ave., Muddy Branch Rd.
Shady Grove N.	Gaithersburg HS Magruder HS Watkins Mill HS	Muddy Branch Rd., East Village Ave., Woodfield Rd. Girard St., N. Frederick Ave. W. Diamond Ave., Montgomery Village Ave., Emory Grove Rd., Apple Ridge Rd., Needwood Rd., Crabbs Branch Way, Redland Rd.
Shady Grove S.	Springbrook HS	Sandy Spring Rd. and Bel Pre Rd.
Randolph	Einstein HS Churchill HS Kennedy HS Blake HS	16th Street, East West Hwy., Blair Mill Rd., university Blvd., Georgia Ave., Thayer Ave., Layhill Rd., Bonifant Rd., Randolph Rd., Hewitt Ave.
West Farm	Paint Branch HS Springbrook HS Blair HS Blake HS	Sandy Spring Rd., Burnt Mills Ave., Old Columbia Pike, E. Randolph Rd., New Hampshire Ave., Lockwood Dr., University Blvd. E., Piney Branch Rd., Castle Blvd., Spencerville Rd.





# Funds/Positions

- There is no funding for the school bus camera program in the Department's FY15 Operating Budget to pay the vendor.
- Each of the 25 cameras costs \$830 per month for the Department to operate, with an annual cost of \$249,000.
- The administrative staff functions within the Department to support the program are expected to be absorbed within current ATEU resources given the volume of citations that are expected to be generated..

# Projected Shortfall

- Based on the latest limited collection information, if we presume that 100 citations per month are issued during the 10 month school year, we will collect about \$112,500, assuming a 90% collection rate. This compares to the \$249,000 annual cost to operate these cameras.

# Program Evaluation

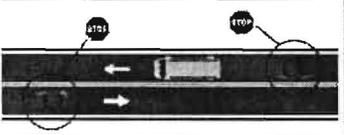
- **Weekly meetings are held with the vendor and MCPS to discuss performance and maintenance issues.**
- **The original camera system installed has already been upgraded to include a second camera system due to poor performance.**
- **The snow and excessive road salt adversely impacted camera operations and photo quality.**

# RESPECT THE BUS

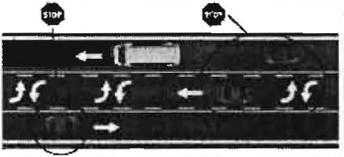
## Don't get BUS-ted!

**Automated School Bus Cameras are here!**

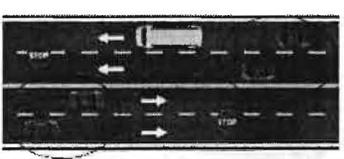
**1**  
**Two-lane roadway:**  
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!



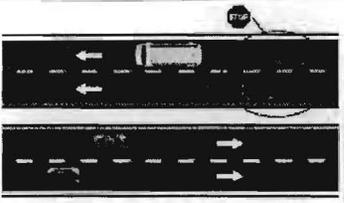
**2**  
**Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane:**  
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!



**3**  
**Four-lane roadway without a median separation:**  
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!



**4**  
**Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:**  
When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.



### **Who passes a stopped school bus?**

Our experience has shown that drivers who pass a stopped school bus with flashing lights fall into one of three categories:

#### **Uninformed**

This driver does not know the requirements of the law. If you are one of these drivers, reviewing the law will provide you with the information that you need to keep your community safe.

#### **Impatient**

This driver knows the law – knows that they are supposed to stop – but chooses not to because their time is more valuable than the safety of those around them. This driver needs to leave earlier, slow down, and RESPECT the BUS.

#### **Distracted**

This driver is so distracted by other factors that they sometimes never see the school bus. Operating a vehicle requires your full time and attention. Distracted driving is at epidemic levels. This driver needs to get back to the basics, be aware of their surroundings, and limit distractions.

If you are stopped by a police officer for passing a stopped school bus with flashing lights, the fine is \$570.00 and 3 points.

If you receive a citation from the automated school bus camera system, the fine is \$125.00. There are no points associated with an automated citation.



Montgomery County, Maryland  
Department of Police  
Traffic Division  
240-773-6600

EXEC REG



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

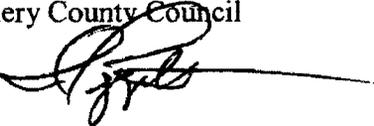
SJF  
CC  
SBF  
LL  
JG

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 2014

Method 2

To: Craig Rice, President, Montgomery County Council  
From: Isiah Leggett, County Executive   
Subject: Executive Regulation 18-13, School Bus Safety Cameras

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit Executive Regulation 18-13, School Bus Safety Cameras. This regulation establishes the dollar amount of the civil penalty for anyone who commits a violation recorded by the school bus safety camera. Authorized by §27-706.1 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, the civil penalty to be imposed for a violation of §21-706.1 of the Transportation Article is \$125.00, to conform with the decision of the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland.

This penalty was initially implemented under temporary regulation 18-13T effective January 1, 2014. In December, this permanent regulation was advertised in the *County Register*. No comments were received. If you have any questions about this regulation, please contact Captain Didone at 240-773-6600.

Attachment

RECEIVED  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
2014 FEB 19 PM 1:58



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject <b>SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CAMERAS</b>	Number 18-13
Originating Department <b>DEPARTMENT OF POLICE</b>	Effective Date

Montgomery County Regulation on:

**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CAMERAS**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

Issued by: County Executive  
Regulation No. 18-13  
COMCOR No. 31.09B.01

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 31-9B  
Supersedes Regulation 18-13T  
Council Review: Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15  
Register Vol. 30 , Issue 12

Comment Deadline: 12-30-2013  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY:** This regulation establishes the amount of the civil penalty for anyone who commits a violation recorded by a school bus safety camera. The civil penalty is authorized by §21-706.1 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code.

**ADDRESS:** Written comments on this regulation should be sent to:

Captain Thomas Didone  
Department of Police  
100 Edison Park Dr  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

**STAFF CONTACT:** For further information or to obtain a copy of this regulation, please contact Captain Didone at 240-773-6600

**BACKGROUND:** 2012 Laws of Montgomery County, ch. 1, authorizes the installation of school bus safety cameras by the Department of Police, after consultation with the Board of Education, directs the County Executive to establish civil penalties.

On April 9, 2012, the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland, under the Authority granted to the District Court by § 21-706.1 (e)(3)(ii) of the Transportation Article of the



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE REGULATION

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Subject <b>SCHOOL BUS SAFETY CAMERAS</b>	Number 18-13
Originating Department <b>DEPARTMENT OF POLICE</b>	Effective Date

Maryland Code, set the civil penalty of §21-706.1 of the Transportation Article as \$125.00.

### 31.09B.01.01. Purpose.

The purpose of this regulation is to establish civil penalties in accordance with §21-706.1 of the Transportation Article.

### 31.09B.01.02. Civil Penalty.

The civil penalty to be imposed for a violation of §21-706.1 of the Transportation Article is \$125 to conform with the decision of the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland.

  
 Isiah Leggett  
 County Executive

Approved as to form and legality:

  
 Office of the County Attorney/Date