

Testimony of James Sikorski Jr. of Wapwallopen, PA to the Senate Majority Policy Committee Hearing on Philadelphia Aggressive Driving, 4-7-26.

Dear Committee Members,

Thanks for taking my testimony. For many years, Philly has sought to impose it's anti-driving views upon the entire state. Things like red-light cameras, speed cameras, stop-arm cameras, etc. The city then put in automated parking enforcement of various types, has discussed noise cameras, Vision Zero, etc. The city claims it can do some of this without state approval. We also have municipal police radar being discussed, and still more items. I would not care so much if these things ONLY applied to Philadelphia, but the city seeks statewide law changes or pilot programs, which eventually transform into statewide laws.

Pennsylvania has seen all of these things backfire, and if you look elsewhere, the above items look even worse. Jay Beeber, who represents a national driving rights group, and other PA residents, testified at multiple state legislative hearings and refuted many things being allowed in the state. Is anyone listening?

Then some current state bills contain items that slide in, like moving radar for state police, requiring lower speed limits, changing calibration requirements, etc. LIDAR for state police was enacted via a past bill that in my opinion, was not about that topic. Was that a proper method to allow a new device?

If we really cared about safety, then we would repeal and ban ALL forms of automated traffic enforcement, not allow municipal police radar, etc. We WOULD require that speed limits be posted at the 85th percentile speed of roads, make yellow traffic lights longer, and use fewer stop signs. Sensors and synchronization would also help in urban areas. Keep in mind that there are federal and state policies that require best-practice engineering, yet we tend to see a deviation in reality.

People who despise motor vehicles, or who benefit from poor engineering and predatory enforcement, should not be pushing anti-motorist policies.

Like it or not, most people travel by private passenger auto, so that mode should get favored status. We would be much better off working together to achieve safety and reasonable travel times than fighting each other to diminish the other modes of travel we do not like.

Sincerely,

James Sikorski Jr.