



Members of the Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors, our members, and their employees and families, I am writing to you today to express our unwavering support for legislation proposed by Representative John Blanton, which will allow for automated enforcement of traffic laws within highway work zones.

The American Road Builders Association (ARTBA) outlines the strategy and effectiveness behind ASE:

“Automated speed enforcement (ASE), also referred to as speed safety cameras (SSC), use speed measurement devices to detect speeding and capture photographic or video evidence of vehicles that are violating a set speed threshold. Agencies can use this enforcement tool as an effective and reliable technology to supplement more traditional methods of enforcement, engineering measures, and education to alter the social norms of speeding. It is one of a range of speed management techniques that is effective in reducing speeds in work zones thereby improving traffic, worker, and law enforcement safety.”

Highway worker safety is the top priority for our members. They want their employees to go home safely to their families after every shift. These employees and their families deserve to have every precaution taken to protect their loved ones on the job, while also improving safety for the travelling public in these work zones.

Representative Blanton’s legislation addresses many concerns brought up in previous sessions regarding privacy rights, and we feel strongly that this policy will save lives while protecting those rights. Speed limits in work zones are very clearly posted, and a citizen deciding to ignore those work zone warnings should be held accountable for endangering the lives of our roadway workers and their fellow travelers.

We see too many of these preventable injuries and deaths every year. Drivers become numb to or just completely ignore the orange cones and the normal speed zone change signs, which greatly increases the danger in these work zones. Automated Speed Enforcement in Kentucky’s work zones will reduce the injuries and fatalities that plague Kentucky’s work zones, and we look forward to working with you to implement this strategy to help save Kentuckians’ lives.

Sincerely,

M. Chad LaRue, P.E.  
Executive Director