



For Immediate Release
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Representative Crowley Introduces Safe Roads Save Lives Act *Authorizes use of automated traffic enforcement technology*

MILWAUKEE, WI –Rep. David Crowley (D-Milwaukee) issued the following statement after unveiling LRB-3994/P5, The Safe Roads Save Lives Act. He was joined at City Hall by supporting members of the Milwaukee Common Council, Lt. Derrick Harris (MPD Neighborhood Taskforce), and concerned community members.

“As a community, we deserve to feel safe on our roads. That is why I am introducing The Safe Roads Save Lives Act that will give our law enforcement the 21st Century tools and technology needed to ensure safer roads. Specifically, this legislation would allow the Milwaukee Common Council to authorize MPD to use automated traffic enforcement technologies for a period of 5 years to deter reckless drivers and restore safety on our roads. During that time period the city will also collect data, complete yearly findings, and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

“In the last 8 years, traffic related fatalities in the City of Milwaukee have increased by 73%, while shockingly, traffic citations issued during the same time frame fell by 60%. The fact is that no matter the cause, drastic decreases in traffic enforcement will negatively impact the safety on our roads. With limited resources and manpower, with more vehicles and roadways to monitor than ever before, maintaining an adequate amount of traffic enforcement officers to deter reckless driving becomes increasingly difficult. Unfortunately, the recent announcement of Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) budget cuts and fewer officers on the streets due to higher projected rates of retirements, adds yet another layer of uncertainty for the safety of our community.

Communities across the country have experienced the positive effects of implementing automated safety systems. A recent Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) study found that communities with red-light cameras had 21% fewer fatal red-light running accidents, and 14% fewer crashes of all kinds at signalized intersections. These systems save lives, make roads safer, and allow local law enforcement greater flexibility to put their resources where they are needed most.”