

Intersection Safety Cameras

Automated Traffic Enforcement

FACT SHEET

The Problem

- In 2002, more than 1.8 million intersection crashes occurred throughout the nation. Of those, about 219,000 are due to red light running -- resulting in about 1,000 deaths and 181,000 injuries. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, IIHS, and Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, 2003)
- A previous study conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that at a busy intersection in Virginia, a motorist ran a red light every 20 minutes. During peak commuting times red light running was more frequent. (2003)

Recent Study Proves they Save Lives

- A new study (*Effects of Red Light Camera Enforcement on Fatal Crashes in Large US Cities*, Hu, McCartt, and Teoh; February, 2011) by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows definitive safety benefits of automated signal enforcement. *"The rate of all fatal crashes at signalized intersections during 2004-2008 for cities with camera programs was an estimated 17 percent lower than what would have been expected without the cameras."*
- According to the most recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 6.3 million reported crashes occurred on America's roadways and approximately 43% of these crashes occur at intersections or are intersection-related.

How it works:

- Intersection Safety Cameras help communities enforce traffic laws and prevent dangerous traffic signal violations. Cameras are connected to traffic signals and to sensors buried in the pavement at the crosswalk or stop line.
- The cameras are triggered by vehicles passing over the sensors after the signal has turned red. Two photographs of the violation are taken, one before the vehicle enters the intersection with the light red and the other while it is in the intersection.
- Citations are civil, not criminal, and are mailed to the registered owner of the car who is able to challenge the citation if he or she was not the driver at the time of the violation.

Who is Using the Technology?

- 25 States permit the use of Intersection Safety Cameras and almost 500 cities & towns
- Intersection Safety Cameras are being used extensively around the globe in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. (IIHS, 2003)

Victims are the Injured, Not the Traffic Violators

- Some argue that red light cameras violate a motorist's privacy rights, but they are less invasive and less subjective than traditional law enforcement methods. Cameras photograph only the vehicle's license plate or the face of the driver, depending on a state's law, whereas a ticketing officer can see inside the vehicle. With the cameras, there is no subjectivity or privacy violation because whoever crosses the intersection after the light turns red will receive a citation.