

AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT

Purpose

Reduce serious injuries and fatalities caused by red light running and speeding.

Description

Systems that automatically issue fines for running red lights or speeding.

Estimated Cost



Applicable Locations

Automated speed enforcement is currently allowed in:

- School zones.
- Residential areas with a speed limit of 35 mph or lower.
- Any work zone on expressways and controlled access highways where the speed limit is 45 mph or higher.

Red light cameras are most applicable in:

- School zones.

- Intersections with a history of red light running or crashes.
- Areas that would be hazardous for police to stop vehicles.

Applicable Street Types

All street types.

Safety Benefits

- Reduced red light running.
- Reduced speeding.
- Reductions in right angle crashes at intersections.
- Reductions in speeding-related crashes outside peak traffic flow times.

Expected Crash Reduction

16 to 25 percent for all injury crashes from red light cameras⁹ and speed cameras.¹⁰

Design Guidance

- Mounted cameras record images of vehicles that speed or run red lights.
- Red light automated enforcement is recommended for intersections with previously observed red light running.
- Install signage warning motorists in advance of the first red light or speed camera on a corridor.



Systemic Safety Potential

Fixed red light cameras are most effective at intersections with high total volumes, higher entering volumes on the main road, longer green cycle lengths, and protected left turn phases.

Additional Information

- MDOT Guidelines for Automated Speed Enforcement Systems in School Zones
- FHWA Red Light Camera Systems Operational Guidelines
- NHTSA Countermeasures that Work

- Place speed cameras in school zones away from traffic signals, stop signs, yield signs, freeway ramps, curves with advisory speeds, or established speed transition zones.
- Contract with a firm that specializes in these systems for installation and administration.
- A law enforcement officer must verify the violation and sign the citation.

Considerations

- Legal authority is necessary to use automated red light or speeding enforcement.
- Six months after automated speed enforcement began in Montgomery County, 62 percent of drivers supported the program.¹¹
- Public education about the safety benefits of automated enforcement may increase support for the programs.

