

Automated Speed Enforcement Research

Relevant Studies/Reports

DOT Recommendations Paper: <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/16481>

National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report – Automated Enforcement for Speeding and Red Light Running (includes case study from Portland):

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/fhwasa1304/resources2/27%20-%20Automated%20Enforcement%20for%20Speeding%20and%20Red%20Light%20Running.pdf

Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Safety Officials (Rates Automated Enforcement as highly effective, and more effective than High Visibility Enforcement which is what is commonly employed across Kitsap County – See Chapter 3):

https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2021-09/15100_Countermeasures10th_080621_v5_tag.pdf

Studies show ASE most effective in School Zones and places with lots of traffic violations:

<https://crosscut.com/news/2022/01/are-wa-traffic-cameras-reducing-dangerous-driving-or-making-it-worse>

Municipal Research and Services Center (MSRC) Policy Guidance:

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/transportation/traffic-codes,-regulation-and-enforcement/automated-traffic-enforcement>

WA State 2020 Automated Traffic Enforcement Survey:

https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/documents/washington_ae2020_survey.pdf

Automated Enforcement Program Checklist published by IIHS in 2021 along with AAA, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Governors Highway Safety Association, and the National Safety Council

<https://www.iihs.org/media/431e551b-3f64-4591-8e30-ad35a069f41f/wq17YQ/News/2021/050621%20auto%20enforcement/AE-checklist-May-2021.pdf>

Key Facts

- In 2019, 26% of all motor vehicle fatalities occurred in crashes in which one driver was speeding.¹
- Automated speed enforcement can substantially reduce speeding on a wide range of roads. IIHS studies of cameras on residential roads in Maryland, on a high-speed roadway in Arizona and on city streets in the District of Columbia found that the proportion of drivers exceeding speed limits by more than 10 mph declined by 70, 88 and 82 percent, respectively, six to eight months after cameras were introduced.²

¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2021). *Quick facts 2019*. (Report No. DOT HS 813 124). <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813124>

² [Retting et al., 2008](#); [Retting et al., 2008](#); [Retting & Farmer, 2003](#)

- A 2020 national survey of drivers ages 16 and older indicated that 44 percent supported the use of speed cameras to ticket drivers who travel more than 10 mph over the speed limit on residential streets.³

Ordinances/Code Provisions

Jurisdiction	Type	Link to Authorizing Ordinance
Auburn	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Auburn/html/Auburn10/Auburn1042.html#10.42
Bellevue	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Bellevue/html/Bellevue11/Bellevue1149.html#11.49
Bellingham	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Bellingham/html/Bellingham11/Bellingham1116.html#11.16
Bonney Lake	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/BonneyLake/html/BonneyLake10/BonneyLake1040.html#10.40
Bremerton	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Bremerton/html/Bremerton10/Bremerton1042.html
Burien	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Burien/html/Burien10/Burien1005.html#10.05.070
Des Moines	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/DesMoines/html/DesMoines10/DesMoines1036.html#10.36
Federal Way	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/FederalWay/html/FederalWay08/FederalWay0805.html#8.05.090
Fife	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Fife/html/Fife10/Fife1060.html#10.60
Issaquah	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Issaquah/html/Issaquah10/Issaquah1042.html#10.42
Kent	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kent/html/Kent09/Kent0936.html#9.36.140
Lacey	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Lacey/#!/lacey10/Lacey1006.html#10.06
Lake Forest Park	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/LakeForestPark/html/LakeForestPark10/LakeForestPark1006.html#10.06.030
Lakewood	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Lakewood/#!/10.04.html#10.04.040
Longview	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Longview/html/Longview11/Longview1104.html#11.04
Lynnwood	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Lynnwood/html/Lynnwood11/Lynnwood1118.html#11.18
Monroe	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Monroe/html/Monroe10/Monroe1014.html#10.14
Moses Lake	City	http://www.cityofml.com/DocumentCenter/Home
Pasco	City	https://pasco.municipal.codes/PMC/10.31

³ [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2021](#)

Pierce	County	https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/PierceCounty/
Puyallup	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Puyallup/html/Puyallup10/Puyallup1033.html#10.33
Redmond	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Redmond/municode/Redmond10/Redmond1025.html#10.25
Renton	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Renton/#!/renton10/Renton1012.html#10-12-15
SeaTac	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/SeaTac/html/SeaTac09/SeaTac0935.html#9.35
Seattle	City	https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT11VETR
Spokane	City	https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Chapter=16A.64
Tacoma	City	http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/cityclerk/Files/MunicipalCode/Title11-Traffic.PDF#Page=93
Vancouver	City	http://www.cityofvancouver.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/vmc/titles_chapters/009.097.pdf
Wenatchee	City	http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Wenatchee/html/Wenatchee08/Wenatchee0806.html#8.06

Further breakdown:

- [Bellevue Municipal Code Ch. 11.49](#) – Red lights and school zones
- [Federal Way Municipal Code Sec. 8.05.090](#) – Red lights and school zones
- [Issaquah Municipal Code Ch. 10.42](#) – Red lights and school zones
- [Lake Forest Park Municipal Code Ch. 10.06](#) – Red lights and school zones
- [Lakewood Municipal Code Sec. 10.04.040](#) – Red lights, railroad crossings, and school zones
- [Lynnwood Municipal Code Ch. 11.18](#) – Red lights, railroad crossings, and school zones
- [Moses Lake Municipal Code Ch. 10.48](#) – Red lights, railroad crossings, and school zones
- [Pierce County Code Ch. 10.42](#) – Red lights only
- [Spokane Municipal Code Ch. 16A.64](#) – Red lights and school zones. Includes sunset date; city has been using 5-year reauthorizations.
- [Tukwila Ordinance No. 2612](#) (2019) – School zones only; includes analysis of proposed intersections, implementation timeline, FAQs, and information materials distributed to school district staff, students, and parents
- [Wenatchee Municipal Code Ch. 8.06](#) – Red lights and school zones

Noted Key Decisions for ASE Programs:

- Should the program employ regular auditing?
- Role of equity in determining the placement of cameras, particularly permanent cameras.

- Contractor operated? (Every program in WA jurisdictions appears to be contractor operated w/ citations reviewed & signed by a sworn law enforcement officer)
- Should the program be mobile/moveable?
- Fine can be no greater than the fine for a parking infraction within the jurisdiction (need to confirm this)
- Fines are not included in the driving record and shall be processed in the same manner as parking infractions
- There are two primary types of speed measurement techniques. 1) 3D Radar, requires no roadway changes, 2) Inductance Loop, requires inductance loops to be placed under the road surface
- Should consider “halo effects” – positive or negative effects from automated speed enforcement programs...i.e. if drivers slow down to comply with a known speed camera, will they then speed elsewhere to make up for lost time.
- Overarching goal must be to change behavior, not to generate revenue.

County Municipal Code Sample (Pierce County):

Chapter 10.42

AUTHORIZED USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS

Sections:

10.42.010 Automated Traffic Safety Cameras Authorized.

10.42.020 Notice of Infraction.

10.42.030 Signage.

10.42.040 Warning Period(s).

10.42.050 Monetary Penalties.

10.42.060 Compensation for Services.

10.42.070 Authorized for Use of Electronic Signatures.

10.42.010 Automated Traffic Safety Cameras Authorized.

The use of automated traffic safety cameras to detect a violation of the RCW Sections adopted by reference in WAC 308-330-421 is authorized at intersections where two arterial roadways intersect, or meet, subject to the restrictions specified in state law (RCW 46.63.170).

A. Law enforcement officers of Pierce County and any other persons commissioned by the Sheriff of Pierce County are authorized to use automated traffic cameras and related automated systems to detect stoplight violations.

B. The use of automated traffic safety cameras is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Use of traffic safety cameras is restricted to two arterial intersections;
2. Automated traffic safety cameras may only take pictures and video images of the vehicle and vehicle license plate and only while an infraction is occurring. Pictures and video images taken by automated traffic safety cameras may not reveal the face of the driver or of the passengers in the vehicle.
3. Authorization is limited for up to six automated traffic safety cameras.

(Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.020 Notice of Infraction.

A. Whenever any vehicle is photographed by an automatic traffic safety camera, a notice of infraction shall be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle within 14 days of the violation, or to the renter of a vehicle within 14 days of establishing the renter's name and address under this Section.

B. If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car business, the law enforcement agency shall, before a notice of infraction is issued, provide a written notice to the rental car business that a notice of infraction may be issued to the rental car business if the rental car business does not, within 18 days of receiving the written notice, provide to the issuing agency by return mail:

1. A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the infraction occurred; or
2. A statement under oath that the business is unable to determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the infraction occurred; or
3. In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, the rental car business may pay the applicable penalty. Timely mailing of this statement to the issuing law enforcement agency relieves a rental car business of any liability under this Chapter for the notice of infraction.

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C. The law enforcement officer issuing the notice of infraction shall include with it a

certificate or facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, micro-photos, or electronic images produced by an automated traffic safety camera, stating the facts supporting the notice of infraction. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie evidence of the facts contained in it and is admissible in a proceeding charging a violation under this Chapter.

(Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.030 Signage.

All locations where automated traffic safety cameras are in use will have signs in locations that clearly indicate to a driver that he or she is entering a zone where traffic laws are enforced by an automated traffic safety camera. (Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.040 Warning Period(s).

All locations where automated traffic safety cameras are located for red light running violations will have a mandatory warning period of at least 30 days prior to any monetary penalty be enforced. (Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.050 Monetary Penalties.

A traffic infraction for violation of RCW Sections adopted by reference in WAC 308-330-421 or Chapter 10.42 PCC issued through the use of automated traffic safety camera shall be processed in the same manner as a parking violation, with a comparable monetary penalty in the current dollar amount of any similar violation adjudicated under RCW 46.61.050. (Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.060 Compensation for Services.

The compensation paid to the manufacturer or vendor of automated traffic safety camera equipment shall be based only upon the value of the equipment and services provided or rendered in support of the system, and shall not be based upon a portion of the individual fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue generated by the equipment. (Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)

10.42.070 Authorized for Use of Electronic Signatures.

The Pierce County Sheriff, or designee, is authorized to utilize electronic signatures in accordance with the provisions of RCW 19.34, to facilitate the automated traffic safety camera

system. (Ord. 2008-83s2 § 2 (part), 2008)