

## The Speeding Problem

Speeding is an everyday occurrence in our society, but it is a serious problem and one of the leading causes of fatal vehicle accidents. (NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis)

### Consider this:

- More than 1,000 people are killed each month in speeding-related collisions. (*Analysis of Speeding-Related Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes*. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)
- Speeding is a contributing factor in 30 percent of all fatal crashes. (NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis)
- The economic cost of speeding-related collisions is estimated to be over \$40 billion each year. (*Analysis of Speeding-Related Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes*. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)

*Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway and extends the distance a driver needs to stop a vehicle.*

Yet, drivers still speed. Furthermore, when a vehicle is involved in a crash, the risk of death and injury is directly proportional to the speed of the vehicle at the time of the collision.

Speeding may be attributed, in part, to a prevalent attitude today in which time is valued more than safety. Many drivers frequently exceed the speed limit by some degree, putting their lives and the lives of their passengers in danger.



## Photo **SPEED** Enforcement

### PHOTO ENFORCEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Many communities lack the resources necessary for police officers to patrol roadways as often as would be necessary to ticket speeding motorists. Even when an officer does witness a violation, they will likely need to speed as well to stop the violator, increasing the risk of danger.

Speed enforcement cameras are designed to identify traffic law violations without depending on the presence of police officers. The technology frees up valuable law enforcement resources and allows communities to focus on other law enforcement needs.



## How Photo Speed Enforcement Works

Speed enforcement cameras are either fixed-camera systems or camera-equipped vans that are deployed in areas where it has been surveyed and identified with persistent dangerous driving patterns. These cameras use highly accurate speed-detection technology, such as radar, to take several speed measurements of the speeding vehicle.

When the device detects a speed violation, a camera captures several still images of the vehicle and its rear license plate, as well as video footage of the incident. Data about the incident, including location, date, time of day, speed limit, lane, vehicle speed and many other details, are also recorded.

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Before a ticket is ever issued, the violation is reviewed three different times by trained technicians to ensure that a violation occurred. An agent of the city, such as a police officer, will then conduct a careful review of the photographs and video evidence of each incident and provide the final authorization to issue a citation. A summons is then sent by mail to the owner of the violating vehicle. The registered owner then has the option to either pay the ticket, contest the citation or show proof that they were not the driver at the time of the incident. Some communities hold the vehicle owner responsible for the violation. In other communities, the driver of the vehicle is held responsible for the violation. In these communities, an additional image of the driver's face is recorded.

Photos and video of the violation can be viewed online at [www.photonotice.com](http://www.photonotice.com).



## Effective? Yes!

The use of cameras is proven to substantially reduce the number of speeding-related traffic violations. In a nine-month study commissioned by the Arizona Department of Transportation, automated enforcement freeway cameras were shown to reduce the average speed of all vehicles by nine mph. The number of single-vehicle collisions was reduced by 63 percent and the total number of side-swipe collisions was down 48 percent. The program was also credited with saving \$16.5 million per year, due to reduced property damage, medical expenses and insurance costs (Washington et al, 2007). For more research and studies, go to [www.stoppedlightrunning.com](http://www.stoppedlightrunning.com).

Enforcement cameras have been in use for more than 20 years in the United States. In that time, they have proven to be extremely accurate and reliable. Laws also require that enforcement cameras meet specified standards and be well maintained.

## Photo Enforcement and Safety

Motorists agree to abide by all traffic laws when they obtain a driver's license. Enforcement cameras are posted in public areas and are clearly marked to ensure that citizens are aware they are in use. Photo enforcement technology is simply one tool available to the community to ensure that citizens are acting in a safe and responsible manner for the benefit of themselves and those around them.