

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a road. A dark-colored sedan is driving on the road. To the left of the road, a tall, white street light pole stands on a sidewalk. The pole has a white, dome-shaped camera mounted on a horizontal arm extending over the road. Below the camera, a white rectangular box is mounted on the pole. The road has white lane markings and a white curb on the left side. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

***Road Safety Programs:***  
**The Solution to Enhance  
Roadway Safety**



A red light is run every 20 minutes  
at each intersection.<sup>1</sup>

Speeding kills more than 1,000 Americans  
every month.<sup>2</sup>

**Road safety programs provide a powerful  
solution to improve driving behavior to prevent  
crashes and the resulting deaths and injuries.**

In a perfect world, traffic laws would be made and adhered to without exception. In the real world, drivers run red lights and speed.

## Red-Light Running

### ***Why do drivers run red lights?***

In an attempt to save time and as a result of aggressive and distracted driving. In fact, a 2008 AAA study found more than 80% of drivers felt distractions are a big problem. More than 50% admitted to using a cell phone while driving while 14% read and send text messages.



### ***Is red light running just simply a hazard of driving?***

**No**, red-light running is completely controllable and preventable.

### ***Is red light running a serious problem?***

**Yes**, one in three Americans knows someone who has been injured or killed in a red-light running crash.

- A 2002 nationwide survey sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that most Americans - 96% - are afraid of being hit by a red-light runner.
- According to the Federal Highway Administration, intersection crashes account for more than 40% of all crashes. Intersection safety is one of the FHA's top priorities.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that in 2004 more than 9,000 people died and another 1.5 million were injured in intersection-related crashes.
- According to 2004 data from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting and General Estimates Systems, crashes caused by red light running resulted in: 854 fatalities and more than 168,000 injuries. In addition, approximately 40 percent of all crashes are intersection related.  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/teams/safety/safe\\_mrt\\_redlight.pdf](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/teams/safety/safe_mrt_redlight.pdf)
- According to a 2008 AAA study, while 70% of drivers said red-light running is a problem, more than 50% admit to speeding up on yellow, and 5% confess to having run a red light on purpose.

## Speeding

- Speeding is a factor in about one-third of all fatal crashes (IIHS).
- Speeding kills more than 1,000 Americans every month (IIHS).
- The NHTSA estimates that the economic cost of speed-related crashes is \$40.4 billion each year - \$76,865 per minute or \$1,281 per second.

Furthermore, according to the National Safety Council:

- Speed was a factor in 27% of fatal crashes in construction and maintenance zones in 2005.
- Compliance with lower speed limits is poor in school zones.

## The Benefits of Road Safety Programs

The purpose of road safety programs is to decrease poor and irresponsible driving by encouraging motorists to obey the traffic laws. Law breakers are fined. Both visible signs warning drivers of intersection safety cameras, as well as the visibility of the cameras themselves, encourage drivers to watch their speed, slow for yellow lights and stop on red.

According to the IIHS' senior transportation engineer, Richard Retting:

*Red light cameras provide the certainty of enforcement, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week... This has changed the way drivers behave with regard to red light running, and now we can document how this behavior change is reducing crashes and injuries. With the well-publicized use of camera enforcement, communities can make signalized intersections much safer.*

### Endorsements

Road safety programs are endorsed by companies ranging from the AAA Philadelphia, where the City has a large program, to various organizations interested in advancing road safety, including:

**American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials**  
**Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety**  
**International Association of Chiefs of Police**  
**National Safety Council**  
**Red Means Stop Coalition**  
**The United States Conference of Mayors**  
**Insurance Institute for Highway Safety**  
**Institute of Transportation Engineers**  
**Tennessee Municipal League**

*Intersection safety cameras provide the certainty of enforcement, **24 hours** a day, **7 days** a week...*





## Driving Home Results

According to the IIHS, road safety programs work because they are transparent and assist in modifying driving behavior to deter violations.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) reports that the use of intersection safety cameras results in significant injury and crash reductions:

- 25% decrease in total right-angle crashes.
- 16% reduction in injury right-angle crashes.

Intersection safety cameras save society \$39,000 to \$50,000 annually at each intersection where they are installed, according to the FHA.

Road safety programs are now enforcing road laws in more than 600 communities across the United States. Examples of studies, summarized in the Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety's *Fact Sheet*, include:

- “Significant citywide crash reductions have followed the introduction of red light cameras in Oxnard, California. Front-into-side crashes at intersections with traffic signals, the collision type most closely associated with red light running, fell 32%. There were 68% fewer front-into-side crashes involving injuries. (IIHS, 2003)”
- “In Fairfax, Virginia after one year of camera enforcement, violations were reduced by about 40%. Additionally, 84% of its residents support the use of red light cameras. (IIHS, 2003)”
- “Photographic detection devices, such as red light cameras, are already being used extensively around the globe. Other countries currently using photographic detection devices include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. (IIHS, 2003)”

*Intersection safety cameras save society \$39,000 to \$50,000 annually at each intersection where they are installed...*

*Focus on Safety: A practical guide to automated traffic enforcement*, a research paper produced by The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running, discovered that:

***...by a margin of 11 to 1, leading research studies... confirm that road safety programs reduce crashes and saves lives.***

In particular, the paper highlights a study out of Raleigh, NC, where a road safety program was initiated in 2003:

- “The results showed right-angle crashes were reduced by 42 percent at red light camera intersections, with a 25 percent reduction in rear-end crashes. The total number of red light-related crashes dropped by 22 percent.”
- “The study also documented a significant reduction in red light running violations that occurred two seconds after the light had changed, demonstrating that the presence of the red light cameras was changing driver behavior.”



*The results showed right-angle crashes were reduced by 42 percent at red light camera intersections, with a 25 percent reduction in rear-end crashes.*

## Constitutionality

There is a vocal minority that believes a city's use of road safety programs is unconstitutional. However, the Seventh Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeal put this concern to rest when it affirmed the constitutionality of intersection safety cameras in January 2009.

## Due Process Rights

According to the Court, issuing citations to vehicle owners (or lessees) without any evidence of who was actually driving the vehicle at the time of the traffic violation is constitutionally permissible. The Court rejected the violators' argument that Chicago's intersection safety cameras offended their due process rights and acclaimed the prudence of the city's system.

*"Is it rational to fine the owner rather than the driver? Certainly so," Chief Judge Easterbrook wrote in the Court's ruling. "A camera can show reliably which cars and trucks go through red lights but is less likely to show who was driving. That would make it easy for owners to point the finger at friends or children—and essentially impossible for the City to prove otherwise. A system of photographic evidence reduces the costs of law enforcement and increases the proportion of all traffic offenses that are detected; these benefits can be achieved only if the owner is held responsible," the Court stated.*

## Revenues

The Court also addressed the issue of revenues derived from road safety programs:

*"That the City's system raises revenues does not condemn it," according to the Court. "Taxes, whether on liquor or on running red lights, are valid municipal endeavors. Like any other exaction, a fine does more than raise revenue: It also discourages the taxed activity. A system that simultaneously raises money and improves compliance with traffic laws has much to recommend it and cannot be called unconstitutionally whimsical."*



*A system of photographic evidence reduces the costs of law enforcement and increases the proportion of all traffic offenses that are detected...*



## Public Support

### ***Does the public care about better road safety?***

#### **Yes.**

- AAA's 2009 Traffic Safety index reported that 94% of those surveyed rated red-light running as unacceptable.
- A 2009 national poll by Public Opinion Strategies concluded 69% of Americans support the use of intersection safety cameras at dangerous intersections.
- Many national, regional and local surveys have found overwhelming support amongst the public for road safety programs:

**New York:** In New York State and in Nassau County, by 77% and 78% respectively, the public supports the use of intersection safety cameras at high traffic volume intersections to monitor vehicles that run red lights. Public Opinion Strategies, 2009.

**New Jersey:** In 2008 a number of New Jersey municipalities entered into a successful trial program that allowed them to place intersection safety cameras at busy intersections to take pictures of vehicles that run red lights. After the program, 77% of NJ voters overwhelmingly support using intersection safety cameras. Public Opinion Strategies, 2009.

**Missouri:** Fully two-thirds of Missouri voters - 66% - support using intersection safety cameras. Public Opinion Strategies, 2009.

**Louisiana:** 66% of Lafayette Parish residents support or strongly support the use of intersection safety cameras. Southern Media and Opinion Research, 2008.

## Further Information

For more information on speeding, red-light running and road safety solutions, please contact ATS:

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