

**Oregon Department of Transportation
Report on Photo Radar in Highway Work Zones
February 2009**

BACKGROUND

The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed HB 2466, allowing the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to request the Oregon State Police or other law enforcement jurisdictions authorized under ORS 810.438 to operate photo radar in highway work zones on highways other than interstate highways. Several criteria around the use of photo radar were identified in the law. Signs announcing the use of photo radar must be posted. For a citation to be issued from photo radar in a highway work zone, a uniformed police officer in a marked vehicle and at least one highway worker must be present. The actual speed of the vehicle must also be displayed within 150 feet of the photo radar unit.

The bill required ODOT to deliver a process and outcome evaluation to the Legislative Assembly by March 1 of each odd-numbered year. The law is repealed on December 31, 2014, and the final report will be made by March 1, 2013. Each report must include:

- The effect of the use of photo radar on traffic safety,
- The degree of public acceptance of the use of photo radar, and
- The process of administration of the use of photo radar.

PHOTO RADAR PROCESS AND OUTCOME EVALUATION

The effect of the use of photo radar on traffic safety:

After completion of its first photo radar work zone pilot project, ODOT will evaluate the effectiveness of the use of photo radar and report findings in its next report to the legislature.

The degree of public acceptance of the use of photo radar:

ODOT contracts with a private research firm to obtain and document Oregonians' public perception on various transportation safety-related issues. From an August 2008 ODOT Transportation Safety Division, Statewide Public Opinion Survey, ODOT learned that 67% of Oregonians polled favor the use of photo radar in traffic enforcement and 74% favor the use of photo radar in traffic work zones. Since 2000, motorists continued to identify speeding as the greatest problem observed while traveling through work zones. ODOT will conduct a public opinion survey later this year, following completion of the first photo radar work zone pilot project.

The process of administration of the use of photo radar:

ODOT will work with those law enforcement agencies identified in law to implement and ensure the law is followed around the use of photo radar in highway work zones.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Since adoption of the bill, ODOT has begun to develop, implement and document a pilot project to use photo radar in a highway work zone. The agency hopes to identify traffic safety benefits and to gain the public's acceptance of the use of photo radar in work zones. The agency intends to conduct pilot projects in one or two state highway work zones that meet the statutory criteria.

Project Overview

ODOT has identified one pilot project to date. The project is located on US 30 (Yeon Street) between Nicolai Street and Kittridge Avenue (MP 1.96 to 3.93). The project consists of repaving the roadway, adding new pavement striping, and correcting substandard sidewalk ramps.

ODOT has provided a grant to the City of Portland Police Bureau (PPB) to provide photo radar enforcement in the work zone. PPB will conduct photo radar enforcement in the same manner as other photo radar enforcement used in Portland, ensuring the elements of Oregon law around photo radar in highway work zones are followed. They will work closely with ODOT and its contractors to provide enforcement while workers are present. ODOT and PPB will jointly implement a communications plan to inform the public of speed enforcement using photo radar in the work zone.

The project is underway, with work zone signing installed in February and sidewalk ramp reconstruction in progress. Paving work will require dry, warm weather and is scheduled to begin as early as May.

The Portland Police will provide citation and other data to ODOT to analyze and include the results in its research report. ODOT staff will also analyze speed data before and after work zone signing is in place, when photo radar becomes active, and when the project is complete and signing and photo radar enforcement have been removed.