

# Automated Red Light Enforcement for the City of Beaverton 2021

## Executive Summary

### Legislative Report Requirements

- Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 810.434 requires cities using photo red light equipment to conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the legislature once each biennium that includes; the effect of the use of the cameras on traffic safety; the degree of public acceptance of the use of cameras; and the process of administration of the use of cameras.

### Effect of the Use of Cameras on Traffic Safety

- Historically there has been an overall reduction in red light running violations.
- The yearly average number of red light violations from 2013 – 2018 was 13,485. The average number of violations captured in 2019-2020 was 11,666 , a 13.5% decrease. The population of the Portland Metro area increased an estimated 2.22% over the same period.
- For 2011 – 2020 the number of crashes and the number of injury crashes at photo enforced intersections, where red light running was determined to be a contributing factor, continues to remain low.
- Seventy percent of red light runners detected by the City’s photo red light cameras do not live in Beaverton.

### Degree of Public Acceptance of the Use of Cameras

- For the last two years, over 90% of Beaverton residents who were surveyed are aware of the photo red light program.
- In 2021, about 35% of those surveyed believe that the use of photo enforcement improves driving behavior and traffic safety.
- The opportunity for public comment continues to be available via the city website, city council meetings, police traffic hotline phone number and directly to the photo enforcement program coordinator. Feedback remains mostly positive.

### The Process of Administration of the Use of Cameras

- Beaverton’s photo red light program has been in operation for 20 years.
- The City of Beaverton uses automated enforcement systems to issue citations for red light running violations. The red light camera system is connected to the traffic signal and captures video evidence when a vehicle enters the intersection after the light turns red.
- The City changed vendors from Redflex to Conduent in July 2018. The vendor is a private company who provides the equipment, maintenance, and citation processing at the direction of the City.
- Violations captured with the photo red light camera are transmitted electronically to the City’s Vendor. The vendor looks at the images, identifies the violator’s plate number and sends a request to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the registered owner information. The violation details are reviewed by a police officer along with the registered owner information to determine whether or not a citation should be created. When a violation is approved and becomes a citation, the vendor then mails the citation along with the photographs to the registered owner. The process from violation to citation mailing occurs within 10 business days in compliance with Oregon law. The registered owner has at least 30 days to respond to the citation and is afforded all of the same rights as a defendant would have with any traffic violation with the addition of the Certification of Innocence and Certificate of Non-Liability form.
- A total of 92,938 red light running citations were issued using the photo red light cameras from January 2011 to December 2020. Of the total citations issued during this period, 60.6% resulted in convictions, 18.9% were dismissed due to the submission of a Certificate of Innocence, 3.8% were

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dismissed due to the submission of a Certificate of Non-Liability and 14.2% were dismissed for other reasons including the completion of the City's Traffic School Diversion program.

### **House Bill 2409 – Intersection Speed Enforcement This section was added for the 2019 report.**

- In 2017, the Oregon legislature passed (HB 2409) amendments to state law allowing cities to enforce speeding violations of 11 mph or more above the posted speed limit during the green- or yellow-light phases at intersections. The amendments also allow a speeding citation to be issued if the driver is traveling 21 mph or more above the posted speed limit during the red-light phase, in addition to a violation for failing to obey a traffic control device.
- From September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 (31 days), we conducted a warning period where violators were issued warnings at three of our intersections. A total of 3,593 warnings were issued.
- On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2018, Beaverton began enforcing speed at SW Walker Rd and SW Cedar Hills Blvd. On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, Beaverton began enforcing speed at SW Allen Blvd and SW Lombard Ave.
- In this time, traffic was monitored for 5,952 operational hours, and issued 1,653 speed citations. Vehicles cited averaged 12.3 miles per hour above the posted limit.
- In the current biennium, 41,186 speed citations were issued at photo enforced intersections.
- Our current statistics show, drivers are violating the intersection speed at almost four times the frequency of red light violations.

**For copies of the full report contact the Photo Enforcement Program Coordinator at 503-526-2540.**