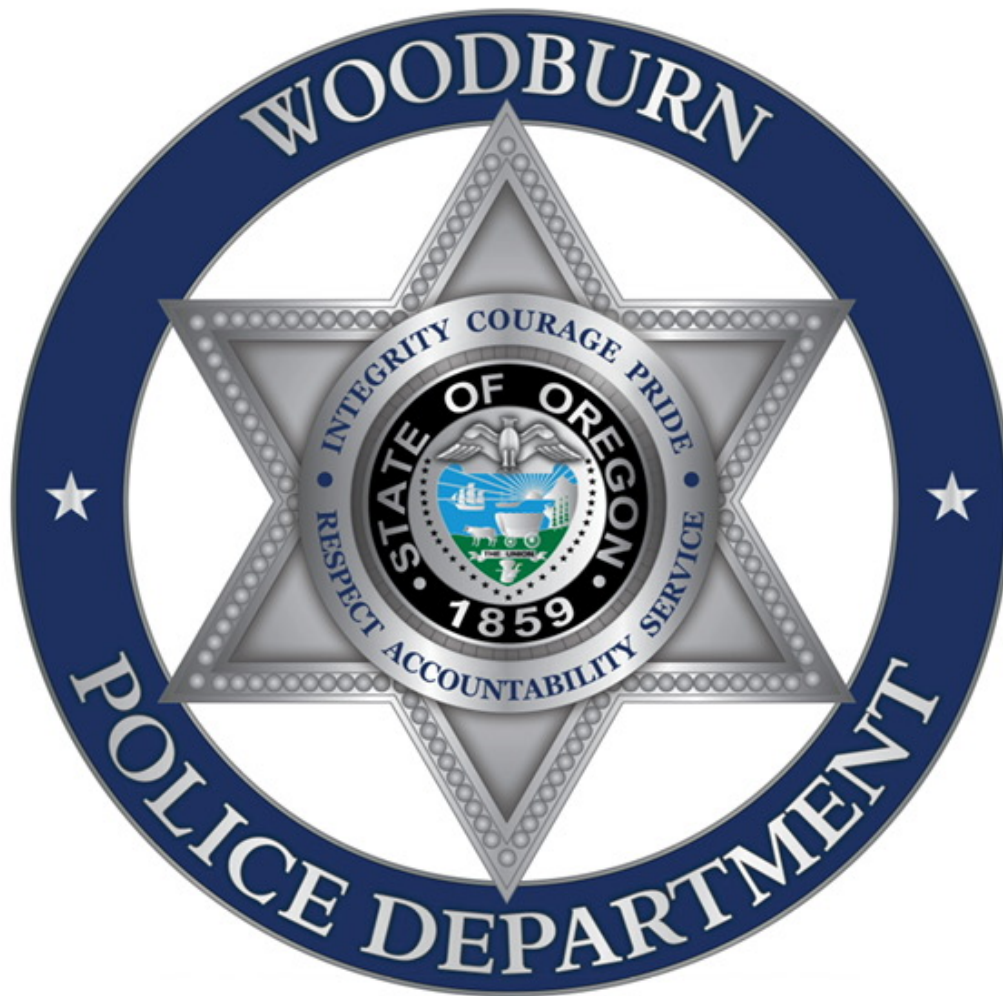


**CITY OF WOODBURN
RED LIGHT PHOTO PROGRAM REPORT
2019-2020**



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Background – Legislative Report Requirements

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 810.434 was amended in 2005 to require cities using photo red light equipment to conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the legislature once each biennium. The law reads as follows:

(1) Any city may, at its own cost, operate cameras designed to photograph drivers who violate ORS 811.265 (Driver failure to obey traffic control device) by failing to obey a traffic control device.

(2) Cameras operated under this section may be mounted on street lights or put in other suitable places.

(3) A city that chooses to operate a camera shall:

(a) Provide a public information campaign to inform local drivers about the use of cameras before citations are actually issued; and

(b) Once each biennium, conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the purposes of subsection (4) of this section that includes:

(A) The effect of the use of cameras on traffic safety;

(B) The degree of public acceptance of the use of cameras; and

(C) The process of administration of the use of cameras.

(4) By March 1 of each odd-numbered year, each city that operates a camera under this section shall present to the Legislative Assembly the process and outcome evaluation conducted by the city under subsection (3) of this section. [1999 c.851 §1; 1999 c.1051 §327; 2001 c.474 §1; subsection (5) of 2001 Edition enacted as 2001 c.474 §3; 2003 c.14 §491; 2003 c.339 §1; 2005 c.686 §1; 2007 c.640 §1; 2011 c.545 §65]

The City of Woodburn is committed to ensuring that all traffic signage is up to date and in conformance with Oregon law and standards for automated enforcement. Each major route entering has a “TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED” sign. In addition, each enforced direction for red light cameras has a traffic signal ahead warning sign with a depiction of a photo camera warning beneath it.

The City of Woodburn currently has two photo red light cameras located at one intersection at North Pacific Highway and Mt. Hood Ave. The cameras are mounted to catch offenders traveling in the North and South directions of North Pacific Highway within the city limits of Woodburn in Marion County, Oregon.

The City of Woodburn entered into a contract with Redflex photo camera systems in 2010. The system was not fully installed and operational until August of 2013 when the photo red light system was finally installed. Redflex began issuing citation in October of 2013 after several warnings were posted in the cities weekly news letter that the system was installed and operational.

Photo red light cameras are a method of traffic enforcement that is used to detect traffic control violations and record identifying information about the vehicle and driver automatically. Violation evidence is processed, reviewed, and approved in an office environment and violation notices are mailed to the registered owners of identified vehicles directly from Redflex rather than at the time of the offense. Offenders are also given a chance to review the video of the incident through a website link posted on their citation.

The goal of the City of Woodburn in obtaining the Redflex red light camera systems at the intersection of North Pacific Highway and Mt. Hood Avenue, was to reduce traffic crashes and increase driver, passenger, and pedestrian safety at that location and within the city, especially with the growth that the city has seen in recent years.

The overall crash data sample is too small to reach statistically significant Conclusions. It is possible that the presence of red light cameras has had a positive effect through the reduction of red light running violations, reductions in injury crashes, and reductions in overall crash activity. However, given the recent study completed at this intersection, the number of speeding vehicles is a serious concern (See section regarding speed enforcement study).

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS:

YEAR	2019	2020
Non-Injury	2	2
Injury	6	1
Fatal	0	0
Total	8	3

CITATIONS FOR RED LIGHT CAMERA SYSTEM:

YEAR	2019	2020
Traffic Volume Count	5,914,890	5,368,350
Actual Violations	3370	2617
Available for Prosecution	1963	1622
Paid in Full	1147	1150
Dismissed/Unpaid	435	354
Tickets Issued	1758	1504
Mail Returned	13	64

RED LIGHT PHOTO PROCESS OF ADMINISTRATION

There are many components to the administrative process of red light photo enforcement. The basic steps involved in issuing a red light citation are: violation

detection, violation processing, quality control checks through vendor, citation review and approval by the police officer, and citation mailing.

1. Violation detection occurs when the photo radar detects an offense for the violation of fail to obey a traffic control device. The system can detect a violation for both running a red light Northbound and Southbound straight and left turn, and making a right turn on a red light without coming to a complete stop Northbound and Southbound.

At least three photographs are generated for each violation. These include the vehicle on approach to the intersection, a close up photo of the driver in the violation, and a close up picture of the violation vehicle's license plate. A short video of the incident is also recorded showing the complete violation.

2. Violation processing, quality control checks, citation review, and citation mailing involves the digital photographic record and video being directly uploaded by our vendor Redflex.

The vendor develops digital photographic record and then looks at the photos. If they can identify the license plate, they send a request to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the registered owner information. The DMV sends this information back to Redflex.

The details of the violation, (such as time, date, location, speed, signal, etc.), are reviewed by the vendor along with the registered owner information. The vendor discards violations where there is no gender match to the registered owner. They may also discard any violations where the driver is not identifiable due to factors like glare, face blocked, or some other factor.

Any violations that pass this first screening by the vendor, are then sent to the Woodburn Police Department for review by a police officer. That officer then reviews them for accuracy, reviews the video to confirm the violation, and then digitally signs the citation. Redflex then mails the citation, along with a photo from the violation, to the registered owner.

The citation must be mailed to the registered owner within six business days to remain in compliance with Oregon law. The registered owner has thirty days to respond to the citation. They are afforded all of the same rights as a defendant would have with any traffic violation and may make an appearance before a judge in Woodburn Municipal Court to plead their case. If the violation is sent to a business, the business may send in a Certificate of Non-Liability Driver Identification form. They will then make a declaration stating the driver's name responsible for the citation and sign the form. A citation is then re-issued to the responsible party.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF RED LIGHT PHOTO

The Woodburn Police Department works hard to gain trust and support in our community. We operate under a transparent leadership that is willing to share any data from the red light photo program. We have had very little negative feedback from the program and I believe the community respects that the light is having a positive influence at that intersection. We have had very little citizen complaints from the red light traffic enforcement at the intersection. Those complaints that do come in are contacted immediately and explained any questions that they may have regarding the system. Many of the complaints are misunderstandings in the way the system works. We have a website that citizens are welcome to voice any concerns they may have.

SPEED ENFORCEMENT STUDY

During the 2017 Regular Session, the Oregon Legislature passed HB-2409, which amended ORS 810.434, 810.435 and 810.436, allowing cities to issue citations for speeding on the basis of photographs taken from these cameras, so long as the conditions of 810.434 were met.

The Woodburn Police Department worked in partnership with Redflex in order to consider using the previously mentioned cameras for speed enforcement at the

interaction of Mt. Hood Ave / N. Pacific Hwy. Redflex gathered data for the years of 2017 and 2018. Redflex was asked to gather data that met the Oregon Revised Statute requirements. Redflex gathered data of vehicles that were traveling at least 11 miles an hour over the posted speed limit (35mph). However, only speeds above 46 miles an hour were captured due to Oregon law.

- In 2017 and 2018 5,346 vehicles traveled south through the intersection at 46mph or above. The speeds ranged from 46mph to 116mph.
- In 2017 and 2018 27,591 vehicles traveled north through the intersection at 46mph or above. The speeds ranged from 46mph to 99mph.

The Woodburn Police Department received ODOT and city council approval in late 2019 in order to begin enforcing speed violations. Due to the pandemic in 2020, the city elected not to turn the system on. The City of Woodburn will be re-evaluating the speed enforcement program in early 2021.