

## **City of Cleveland - Traffic Safety Camera Fact Sheet**

**Taking advantage of today's technology to reduce crashes and injuries and increase safety. Since 2005 the City of Cleveland, through the Department of Public Safety and** Division of Police have operated a traffic management and enforcement program that takes advantage of technology to raise awareness about driving behaviors, decreases collisions and improve safety on Cleveland streets. The goal of the City's use of traffic safety camera technology is to increase safety for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and citizens of Cleveland.

*"A 2011 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study of 99 large U.S. cities with longstanding*



*red light cameras found that using the cameras reduced fatal crashes by 24%"<sup>1</sup>*

While the City of Cleveland's traffic safety camera program may not be perfect Bike Cleveland supports the use of traffic safety cameras as a tool to improve the safety of city streets for all road users. Traffic cameras should be reformed to protect our most vulnerable road users, not banned.

Here are the facts about Issue 35 and the benefits of traffic safety cameras as a tool to improve road safety and to save lives.

**Issue 35 language:** *Shall the Charter of the City of Cleveland be amended to add new Chapter 40, Section 203, which provides that the City shall not use any traffic law photo-monitoring device for the enforcement of a qualified traffic law violation, unless a law enforcement officer is present at the location of the device and personally issues the ticket to the alleged violator at the time and location of the violation?*

**Voting NO on Issue 35 will allow the City of Cleveland to continue the successful use traffic safety cameras to reduce crashes and injuries and increase safety.**

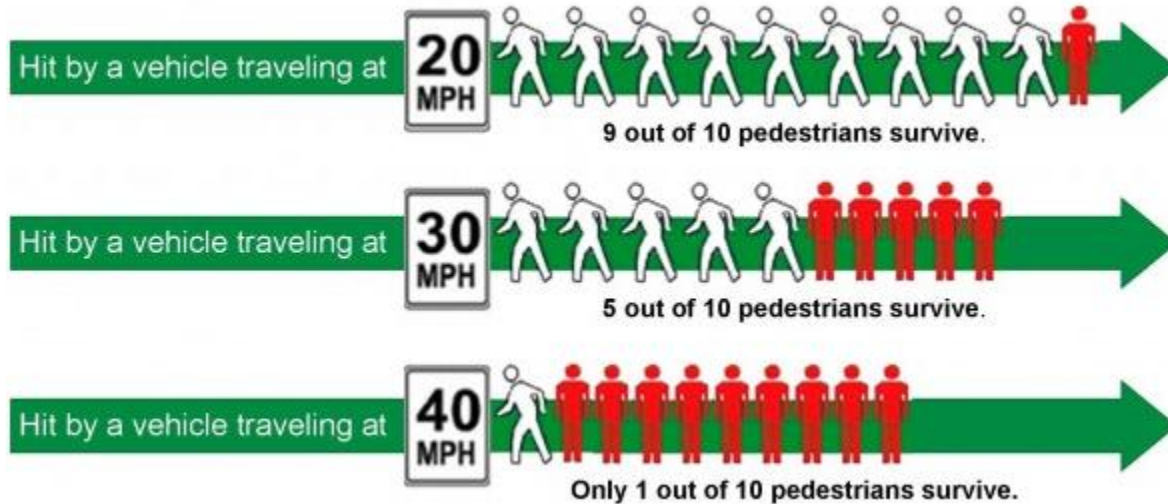
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<sup>1</sup> Insurance Institute for Highway Safety analyzed the impact of photo enforcement on intersection fatality rates in 99 large U.S. cities from 2004 to 2008. The study also stated if photo enforcement cameras would have been deployed in all major U.S. cities that a total of 815 deaths could have been prevented during that time period.

## **FACTS about Cleveland's Traffic Safety Camera program:**

- 1. FACT: The program places a priority on high crash intersections and major arterial streets and has proven to reduce collisions and improve safety.** 80% percent of Cleveland's traffic safety cameras are in use at high crash intersections or on major arterial corridors that have been identified to be high speed and crash areas. *REF: 2007 and 2009 Crash Reports from The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.*
- 2. FACT: The number of collisions and tickets issued has declined since the program was initiated.** From 2008-2012 the number of tickets issued from traffic safety cameras has continued to decrease. Since 2007 the number of tickets issued has been cut in half. This indicates that traffic cameras do impact motorist behavior and road safety. *REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.*
- 3. FACT: The photo enforcement program includes a fair appeals process administered by Cleveland Municipal Court.** 4% of tickets issued by traffic safety cameras are appealed with more than 50% of the appellants winning an appeal. An offender who receives a citation is provided with an appeals process through the Cleveland Municipal Court that accords due process and conforms to the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. *REF: Cleveland Ord. 413.013.*
- 4. FACT: The program is an effective use of technology resources and reduces safety risks to Police Officers.** Traditional red light enforcement is often dangerous and difficult. Usually police officers must enter traffic to enforce a violation, ultimately endangering themselves as well as other motorists and pedestrians. Cameras can be used effectively for 24 x 7 enforcement and tickets are only issued if there is clear and strong evidence of someone running a red light or speeding excessively – more than 11 mph over the speed limit. Each of Cleveland's traffic cameras is calibrated every day to ensure the radar and cameras are operating correctly. *REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.*
- 5. FACT: Requiring police officers to monitor cameras and issue citations would call for the City to spend \$19.5 million annually on 65 additional assigned police officers.** If issue 35 passes it would require 65 more police officers to be dedicated to traffic enforcement, removing them from addressing other quality of life issues. This would cost the city \$19,500,000 annually or reduce the number of police officers patrolling Cleveland neighborhoods. *REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.*
- 6. FACT: The majority of citations issued were to drivers that reside outside of the City of Cleveland.** 70% of traffic safety camera tickets issued in 2013 were given to drivers that reside outside of the City of Cleveland. *REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.*
- 7. FACT: Photo evidence is reviewed by both a representative from the camera system vendor and a Police Officer before a citation is issued.** The program includes a fair and sound ticket-evaluation process that helps ensure strong and clear evidence of a traffic violation. *REF: Cleveland Ord. 413.013.*
- 8. FACT: A ticket is issued only when a driver illegally runs a red light or is significantly exceeding the speed limit.** To get a ticket issued by a traffic safety camera, a motor vehicle must either be shown to be within the intersection on a red light, or be traveling more than 11 mph over the posted speed limit. *REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.*

9. **FACT: Officers that were needed to physically monitor traffic enforcement have been redeployed since 2013, and are being used to combat more serious violent crimes.** Since September of 2013, the City decommissioned the Mobile Speed Enforcement vehicles in favor of the unmanned Portable Camera Unit (PCU). The systems allowed for redeployment of police officers to other duties aimed at crime and violence reduction. REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.
10. **FACT: Portable traffic safety enforcement systems are used to increase safety in School Zones.** The portable systems can be requested for use in schools zones and other areas identified by block clubs and resident groups as chronic high-speed areas. Reducing vehicle speed can greatly decrease severe and fatal injuries of pedestrians.



Source: Active Transportation Alliance, Illinois Department of transportation, 2010 crash summaries

11. **FACT: The photo enforcement program is carried out in a fair, public and transparent manner to serve as a strong deterrent to violating traffic laws.** Photo-enforcement cameras are in plain view, not hidden. There are signs warning drivers that photo enforcement is in use. Unlike speed traps, photo enforcement is fair. Only violators who meet objective criteria specifically designed to omit minor, unintended infractions are photographed. There is no potential for impermissible profiling or discriminatory enforcement where photo enforcement is in use.
12. **FACT: The vendor for the cameras receives a fixed fee per month and not a percentage share of revenue for their services and technology.** Xerox receives fees ranging from \$3,075 to \$6,225 per photo enforcement camera system per month for red light/speed/fixed/portable systems. The total annual cost of the system for 2013 was \$2,634,865. REF: City of Cleveland Department of Public Safety.