Speed Cameras
Deterring speeding, reducing crashes

Speeding motorists are a pervasive problem in New York City. The New York City Police Department issues over 70,000 summonses annually for speeding violations. Speeding is a serious threat to public health and its dangers increase exponentially. If a driver strikes a child at 40 mph there is an 80% chance the child will be killed, but if the driver strikes a child at 30 mph there is an 80% chance the child will survive.

Currently a police officer must be present at the scene of a speeding violation to observe the violation and serve the operator of the vehicle with a summons. Given the constraints on enforcement time and budgets, motorists can rely on the odds that they will get away with speeding nearly every time.

The City of New York supports legislation to enable it to supplement NYPD efforts with technology to record speeding violations. The program will operate in the same manner as the successful Red Light Camera Program which has reduced red light running in the City, preventing accidents and saving lives.

The most recent speed camera devices combine sensors with recorders, to determine the speed of a vehicle and then capture an image of the motor vehicle at the moment that it exceeds the speed limit. The cameras can be stationary or mounted on mobile units and shifted from neighborhood to neighborhood as the need arises.

The enactment of this legislation will enable the City to continue to explore the use of new technology as a means of improving public safety.
Elements of a Speed Camera Bill

The penalties:

- Between 5 and 9 miles above the speed limit is not to exceed $50;
- Between 10 and 29 miles above the speed limit is not to exceed $75;
- 30 miles above the speed limit is not to exceed $150; and
- An owner is liable for an additional penalty not to exceed $25 for each violation for the failure to respond to a notice of liability within the prescribed time period.

Consider this...

If a pedestrian is hit at:

- 20mph there is about a 1 in 40 chance of being killed
- 30mph there is about a 1 in 5 chance of being killed
- 35mph there is a 50/50 chance of being killed
- 40mph there is about a 7 in 10 chance of being killed

The High Cost of Speeding

Speeding is among the leading causes of traffic accidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speeding-related crashes are estimated to yield an economic cost to society of $40.4 billion per year. In 2008, speeding contributed to 31 percent of all fatal crashes, resulting in 11,674 lives lost. Speeding reduces a driver’s ability to maneuver safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation.

DOT Initiatives to Reduce Speeding

- School Reduced Speed Zones: Created over 1.00 20 mph areas around schools.
- Speed Boards: Initiated a program to rotate speed boards to different high speeding locations in all five boroughs.
- Neighborhood Speed Zones: Launched the first zone in the Claremont section of the Bronx, reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph and adding safety measures.
- Speed Bumps: Installed over 1000 speed reducers on local and residential streets since 2002.
- That’s Why It’s 30 Campaign: Created an ad campaign to call attention to NYC’s speed limit of 30 mph.