

Speed Cameras

Deterring speeding, reducing crashes



Modeled off the successful Red Light Camera Program, speed camera legislation would allow the City to access modern technology to improve public safety.

Speeding: Playing the Odds

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.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This bill amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Public Officers Law to authorize the City of New York to establish a demonstration program imposing liability on the owners of motor vehicles found to be in violation of the maximum speed limit or the maximum school speed limit in the City through the use of a speed limit photo device which records speed data by photographic, micro-graphic, video tape or other recording systems and produces an image of a motor vehicle at the moment that it exceeds the speed limit. The City will be authorized to operate from twenty to forty speed cameras.

QUICK STATS ON SPEED CAMS

Speed cameras are being used to increase safety across the country and around the world.

Speed cameras are presently in use in the District of Columbia, California, North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Arizona, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

A 2004 UK study found the use of speed cameras:

- Reduced the number of those killed or seriously injured by 40%.
- Reduced personal injury collisions by 33%.
- Reduced speeding by 71% at the sites where cameras were installed.
- In Washington DC on camera monitored roadways, the aggressive speeding rate has decreased from 1.7% to 1.9% since its speed camera program was implemented.
- According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study, more than 7 in 10 drivers thought it was a good idea to use photo enforcement devices to reduce speeding and running red lights and stop signs.

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 100 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.
- **Traffic Calming Projects:** Implemented over 150 safety improvement projects on corridors and intersections between 2008 and 2011.
- **That's Why It's 30 Campaign:** Created an ad campaign to call attention to NYC's speed limit of 30 mph.