

City of Tacoma

Automated Enforcement Program

Automated enforcement uses cameras to capture a license plate image when a driver commits a traffic violation, such as speeding and red light running.

Automated enforcement cameras are an effective tool that can deter hazardous driving behaviors and improve safety for all road users. While one of the more impactful ways to change driver behavior is through redesigning the roadway, in the short-term, automated enforcement may be the appropriate tool to reduce speed and crashes.

Locations

Per Washington law (RCW 46.63.250) automated enforcement cameras can be used in the following locations:



School zones



High crash corridors



Park zones



Arterial traffic signals



Hospital zones

See current and planned locations at: tacoma.gov/automatedenforcement



How Program Expansion Works

1

Conduct analysis

2

Select camera location

3

Perform outreach

4

Turn on camera

5

Invest in safety improvements

6

Monitor and evaluate



Frequently Asked Questions

To request this information in an alternative format, please contact Carrie Wilhelme at cwilhelme@tacoma.gov or (253)442-9813 number. TTY users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

Does Tacoma currently have any automated enforcement cameras?

Yes, Tacoma has been using automated enforcement cameras since 2008, mainly red-light and school zone. The City will be expanding the number of cameras, focusing on speed cameras.

How much is a citation?

Fines are \$145. These are civil, like parking tickets, and are not reported to the Department of Licensing or insurance.

How is revenue used?

After operational costs, revenue is reinvested into traffic safety improvements.

What data is collected by the cameras?

When a driver runs a red light or speeds, the system records the violation with a photo and video of the license plate. Cameras do not capture the driver or passengers. By law, this information can only be used to enforce the traffic violation and cannot be used for other purposes (RCW 46.63.220).

How are new locations decided?

Location selection will be based on data analysis and equity. Each site will be evaluated using crash and speed data, land use, roadway design, planned improvements, and equity factors, such as the location of existing cameras.

If I received a ticket, how do I pay the fine?

Pay online at ZeroFatality.com. Make sure to pay within 30 days to avoid penalties.

Is financial assistance or payment option available?

You can request an interest free payment plan or Community Service option in court or through the hearing by mail or judicial review paperwork. Additionally, people receiving public assistance may request a 50% reduction on their first camera violation.

To find more information about Tacoma's Automated Enforcement Program, visit: tacoma.gov/automatedenforcement.

