

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

frequently
asked questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

What types of Traffic Enforcement Cameras are there?

The City of Suffolk is rolling out four types of Traffic Enforcement Cameras:

- Red Light Photo Enforcement Cameras
- School Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras
- School Bus Stop-Arm Enforcement Cameras
- Work Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras

RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

How do Red Light Photo Enforcement Cameras work?

Photo enforced signs are located within 500 feet of the intersection in an effort to remind drivers to comply with the traffic signal. Vehicles that enter the intersection after the light has turned red for 0.5 or ½ second are captured.

The camera system is wired to the traffic lights and to sensors that are buried in the lanes of the roadway surface. Vehicles that cross the sensors after the light has turned red activate the system. The violating vehicle is photographed 3 times and a 12 second video of the violation captures the vehicle in motion. The first photo is taken at the stop bar as evidence to show that the light was red prior to the vehicle entering the intersection; the second photo is the vehicle's license plate for identification purposes; the third photo is taken to show evidence of the vehicle proceeding through the intersection while the light is still red. The photographed documentation of the red light violation is evidence for the police department to issue a civil penalty to the owner of the vehicle.

What if I entered the intersection when the light is yellow?

Vehicles entering the intersection on yellow and are still in the intersection when the light turns red are not photographed.

What is the 30-day warning period?

After cameras are installed at an intersection, a 30-day warning period will be in effect. Motorists running a red light will receive a WARNING Notice of Violations/Summons in the mail. After the 30-day warning period ends violators will receive a Notice of Violation/Summons via first class mail. If the notice is not paid or contested within 30 days, violators will receive a delinquent notice.



SCHOOL ZONE SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

How do School Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras work?

Public and private schools will have School Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras in designated school zone areas. Photo enforced signs are located within 500 feet before entering the school zone. The cameras are only operational during designated school hours when the school speed zone signage is flashing. Violators will receive a Notice of Violation/Summons via first class mail. If the notice is not paid or contested within 30 days, violators will receive a Delinquent Notice.

When will School Zone Speed Enforcement Cameras be operational?

Cameras will be live for the start of the 2024 school year. However, once cameras are installed, motorists will receive a WARNING Notice of Violations/Summons in the mail, before the start of the 2024 school year.

Are Private Schools included?

Yes, all schools were included in the initial study to determine if they required School Zone speed enforcement cameras.



Frequently Asked Questions

SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM CAMERAS

How do School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras Work?

A school bus violation occurs when a motorist passes a school bus after the school bus has come to a complete stop and has extended its stop-arm and flashing lights.

High-resolution cameras are installed on the exterior of the school bus. When a school bus extends its stop-arm, the system will automatically detect if a vehicle passes the stopped school bus within the enforced zone. If a vehicle passes the school bus, the cameras capture images and video showing the violating vehicle. The violation images include not only the violating vehicle as it passes the school bus, but also the vehicle's license plate and the school bus extended stop arm. The system also records a video of the violating vehicle as further evidence for the Suffolk Police Department to issue a Notice of Violation/Summons via first class mail. If the notice is not paid or contested within 30 days violators will receive a Delinquent Notice.

When will School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras be operational?

Cameras will be live for the start of the 2024 school year. However, once cameras are installed, motorists will receive a WARNING Notice of Violations/Summons in the mail, before the start of the 2024 school year.



Frequently Asked Questions

WORK ZONE SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

How do Work Zone Speed Cameras work?

Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement cameras are mobile system that detects the speed of passing vehicles. The system will capture images of the front and rear of the vehicle and related information (i.e. speed limit, speed, location, date, time, etc.). This record and set of images is used as evidence for the Suffolk Police Department to issue a Notice of Violation/Summons via first class mail. If the notice is not paid or contested within 30 days Violators will receive a Delinquent Notice.

How will I know if I am in a Work Zone with Enforcement Cameras?

Work Zones that have Seed Enforcement Cameras present and active will have signs in advance of the enforcement area, alerting drivers to the upcoming enforcement.

How much are the fines?

\$50.00 fine for Red Light Running violation per Suffolk Code 86.317 and VAC 15.2-968.1

\$100.00 fine for School Speed Zone violation per Suffolk Code 86.318(b)(1) and VAC 46.2-882.1

\$250.00 fine for School Bus Arm violation per Suffolk Code 86.318(b) and VAC 46.2-844 (A)

\$100.00 fine for Work Zone Speed violation per Suffolk code 86.401 (b)(1) and VAC 46.2-882.1.

What can I expect through the mail?

You will receive the notice of violation. The notice of violation will have information related to the offense (date, location, etc.) as well as an internet link where you can view a video of the violation.

How do I pay the fine?

Violations may be paid online, via phone or by mail as noted on each violation notice. Details for each payment method are included on each violation notice.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I appeal?

You can appeal your citation. Information on the appeal process is included with the notice.

Do cameras photograph every vehicle passing?

The camera systems only take photographs when a violation occurs.

Does the City of Suffolk have a local ordinances for these cameras?

Yes. Chapter 86, Division 5. Photo and Video Monitoring Traffic Enforcement; Sec. 86-317. Use of photo-monitoring systems to enforce traffic light signals; Sec. 86-318. Use of photo-monitoring systems to enforce speed limits in highway work zones and school crossing zones; Sec. 86-319. Use of video-monitoring systems in or on school buses (passing a stopped school bus).

Where does the money from the fines go?

Fines collected in excess of the contract with the vendor, Altumint, will go into a transportation fund dedicated to roadway safety improvements throughout the City.



