

**CITY OF WOODBURN  
PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT  
2021 & 2022**



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## **Background – Legislative Report Requirements**

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 810.434 requires cities using photo enforcement camera equipment to conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the legislature once each biennium by March 1 of each odd-numbered year. The law reads as follows:

- (1) Any city may, at its own cost, operate cameras designed to photograph drivers who:
  - (a) Violate ORS 811.265 (Driver failure to obey traffic control device) by failing to obey a traffic control device; or
  - (b) Violate the speed limit established in ORS 811.111 (Violating a speed limit) by 11 miles per hour or greater or violate the designated speed posted under ORS 810.180 (Designation of maximum speeds) by 11 miles per hour or greater.
- (2) Cameras operated under this section may be mounted on street lights or put in other suitable places.
- (3) A city that chooses to operate a camera shall:
  - (a) Provide a public information campaign to inform local drivers about the use of cameras before citations are actually issued; and
  - (b) Once each biennium, conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the purposes of subsection (4) of this section that includes:
    - (A) The effect of the use of cameras on traffic safety;
    - (B) The degree of public acceptance of the use of cameras; and
    - (C) The process of administration of the use of cameras.
- (4) By March 1 of each odd-numbered year, each city that operates a camera under this section shall present to the Legislative Assembly the process and outcome evaluation conducted by the city under subsection (3) of this section. [1999 c.851 §1; 1999 c.1051 §327; 2001 c.474 §1; subsection (5) of 2001 Edition enacted as 2001 c.474 §3; 2003 c.14 §491; 2003 c.339 §1; 2005 c.686 §1; 2007 c.640 §1; 2011 c.545 §65]

The City of Woodburn is committed to ensuring that all traffic signage is up to date and in conformance with Oregon law and standards for automated enforcement. Each major route entering has a “TRAFFIC LAWS PHOTO ENFORCED” sign. In addition, each enforced direction for photo enforcement cameras have a traffic signal ahead warning sign with a depiction of a photo camera warning beneath it.

The City of Woodburn currently has two photo red light/speed enforcement cameras located at the intersection at North Pacific Highway and Mount Hood Avenue. The cameras are mounted to catch violators traveling in the North and South directions of North Pacific Highway within the city limits of Woodburn in Marion County, Oregon.

The City of Woodburn entered into a contract with Redflex (Now Verra Mobility) photo camera systems in 2010. The system was not fully operational until August of 2013, when the photo red light system was finally installed. Redflex/Verra Mobility began issuing citations in October of 2013, after several warnings were posted in the cities weekly newsletter that the system was operational.

The Woodburn Police Department received ODOT and city council approval in late 2019 in order to begin enforcing speed violations. Despite ODOT and city council approval the city delayed activating the speed photo enforcement system in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

In August of 2021, after renewing our contract with Redflex/Verra Mobility, the City of Woodburn began a public notification process through weekly city newsletters and a social media campaign to inform the public of a speed photo enforcement activation at the above mentioned intersection. The speed enforcement cameras were activated in September of 2021, and a one month grace period was provided that issued warning notices to any motorist driving at least 11 mph over the speed limit. On October of 2021, the photo enforcement camera began to issue citations for speed limit violations in addition to red light violations in accordance with state law.

Photo speed and red light cameras are methods of traffic enforcement that are used to detect traffic control violations and record identifying information about the vehicle and driver automatically. Violation evidence is processed, reviewed, and approved in an office environment and violation notices then mailed to the registered owners of identified vehicles directly from Verra Mobility rather than at the time of the offense. Offenders can review the video of the violation through a website link posted on their citation.

The goal of the City of Woodburn in obtaining photo enforcement camera systems at the intersection of North Pacific Highway and Mt. Hood Avenue was to reduce traffic crashes and

increase driver, passenger, and pedestrian safety at that location and within the city, especially with the growth that the city continues to experience in recent years.

The overall crash data sample is too small to reach statistically significant conclusions regarding traffic crashes. It is possible that the presence of photo enforcement cameras have had a positive effect through the reduction of red light running and speed violations in reducing the number of injury crashes.

**TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS:**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Non-Injury	12	11
Injury	2	2
Fatal	0	0
Total	14	13

**COMBINED CITATIONS FOR RED LIGHT AND SPEED VIOLATIONS:**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Traffic Volume Count	4,439,144	5,719,503
<b>Red Light</b>		
Red Light Actual Violations	2911	2961
Red Light Available for Prosecution	1547	1552
Red Light Tickets Issued	1468	1339
<b>Speed</b>		
Speed Actual Violations	3452*	6872
Speed Available for Prosecution	2703	4705
Speed Tickets Issued	2602	4397
<b>Citation Totals</b>		
Total Paid in Full	5350	3800
Total Dismissed/Unpaid	658	1686
Total Citations Issued	4,070	5736
Total Mail Returned	199	450

(\* Speed Actual Violations in 2021, were only for the last quarter (3 months), October 2021, through December 2021)

Of note, the photo speed enforcement program was activated on September 1, 2021, beginning a one-month violation warning grace period until October 1, 2021. In the three-month period that the photo speed enforcement was live in 2021, (October 2021, through December 2021), the number of actual speed violations was recorded as 3,452, which was an average of 1,151 speed violations a month. In 2022, there were 6,872 actual speed violations for the entire year (12 month period), which was an average of 573 violations a month.

This indicated that after the first three months of the activation of the speed enforcement program there was a 50% monthly reduction in speed violations captured per month in 2022, when compared to the last three months of 2021, when the photo speed enforcement system was still relatively new. This reduction in noted speed violations is in spite of nearly 1.3 million increase in traffic count numbers for the 2022 year as compared to 2021.

It appeared that the speed photo enforcement camera system has had a significant effect on speeding behavior at the intersection. This holds true when compared to a previous speed traffic study conducted in 2017 and 2018, where there was an average of 16,469 actual violations noted per year, which averaged to 1,372 speed violations per month. The photo speed enforcement program appeared to have the desired effect of reducing speed violations at the noted intersection. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, speeding has been involved in approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities in the U.S. In 2020, speeding had killed 11,258 people (Speeding and aggressive driving prevention: NHTSA, n.d.).

## **PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROCESS OF ADMINISTRATION**

There are many components to the administrative process of a photo enforcement citation. The basic steps involved in issuing a red light and/or speed enforcement citation are: violation detection, violation processing, vendor quality control checks, citation review and approval by a police officer and/or traffic enforcement agent, and citation mailing.

1. Violation detection occurs when the photo radar detects an offense for the violation of fail to obey a traffic control device or speeding of at least 11 mph. The system can detect a violation for running a red light Northbound and Southbound straight and left turn, and making a right turn on a red light without coming to a complete stop Northbound and Southbound. Violation detection also occurs when the photo radar detects a speed limit offense of at least 11 mph in Northbound and Southbound lanes.

At least three photographs are generated for each violation. These include the vehicle on approach to the intersection, a close up photo of the driver in the violation, and a close up

picture of the violation vehicle's license plate. A short video of the incident is also recorded, showing the complete violation.

2. Violation processing, quality control checks, citation review, and citation mailing involves the digital photographic record and video being directly uploaded into a provided software program by our vendor, Verra Mobility.

The vendor develops digital photographic records and then reviews the photos. If the vendor can identify the license plate, they send a request to the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the registered owner information. Oregon DMV sends this information back to Verra Mobility.

The details of the violation, (such as time, date, location, speed, signal, etc.), are reviewed by the vendor along with the registered owner information. The vendor discards violations where there is no gender match to the registered owner. They may also discard any violations where the driver is not identifiable due to glare, face blocked, or some other factor.

Any violations that pass this first screening by the vendor are then sent to the Woodburn Police Department for review by a police officer and/or authorized traffic enforcement agent. That officer/agent then reviews them for accuracy, reviews the video to confirm the violation(s), and then digitally signs the citation. Verra Mobility then mails the citation, along with a photo from the violation to the registered owner and/or the identified violator.

The citation is mailed to the registered owner within ten business days of the approval of the alleged violation to remain in compliance with Oregon law. The registered owner has thirty days from the mailing of the citation to respond to the citation. They are afforded all of the same rights as a defendant would have with any traffic violation and may make an appearance before a judge in Woodburn Municipal Court to plead their case. If the violation is sent to a business, the business may send in a Certificate of Non-Liability Driver Identification form. They will then make a declaration stating the driver's name responsible for the citation and sign the form. A citation is then re-issued to the responsible party.

## **CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

The City and the Woodburn Police Department work hard to gain the trust and support of our community. We operate under a transparent leadership that is willing to share any publically available data from the photo enforcement program. The City has had very little negative feedback from the continuation of the program and it is our belief the community accepts that the photo enforcement camera contributes to the safety of the community. The City and the Woodburn Police Department have had very little community member complaints from the photo enforcement system. Complaints or questions received are promptly responded to and any available information regarding the photo enforcement system is explained to the concerned party. Often complaints or inquiries of the photo enforcement system are from a misunderstanding of how the program or system works. The Woodburn Police Department has a variety of ways community members can voice concerns, which include: in person or phone contact, through a City social media app, website and email.