

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the Traffic Signal Safety cameras?

Red-light cameras are installed at six approaches located at five intersections:

1. Ross and I-40 south frontage road
2. Pierce and SE 11th Avenue
3. Pierce and SE 3rd Avenue
4. Coulter Street and I-40 north frontage road
5. Coulter Street and Elmhurst Drive (north and south bound)

Wouldn't it be more effective for the light to stay yellow longer?

Yellow-light timing is based on the physical characteristics of the intersection and driver behavior. A driver needs sufficient time to see a yellow light and safely determine whether to stop or proceed through the intersection. Increasing yellow-light times beyond what is reasonable can actually increase the number of red-light runners because of the longer delay that drivers experience at intersections.

What recourse do I have if I believe the citation was issued erroneously?

If you receive a notice of violation, you may request a hearing. If you receive the notice of violation erroneously or if you have a legal justification for going through the red light, then you are not liable for the civil penalty.

How much is the fine?

Violations will be assessed a \$75.00 civil penalty. There will be a \$25 late fee.

What about my driving record?

Because the violation is a civil matter, it is treated much like a parking ticket. The violation is not reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety as a moving violation and will not be reported to the insurance company.

Be Safe . STOP! 



For more information about the City of Amarillo Traffic Signal Safety Program, visit the website at: www.ci.amarillo.tx.us

or contact:

Amarillo Customer Service Center
Violation Processing Center
Toll Free: 1-866-790-4111



Amarillo Traffic Signal Safety Program

Be Safe . STOP! 

Why install red-light cameras?

The City of Amarillo is committed to the safety of its citizens and dedicated to reducing preventable collisions at signalized intersections. Every year, motorists that run red lights cause needless crashes in Amarillo. The Federal Highway Administration Stop Red Light Running Program reports that red light camera safety programs in other cities reduced crashes between 40 and 90 percent.

The time saved by running a red light – only seconds.

Red-light running is the leading cause of urban crashes according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Nationally, in 2006, almost 900 people were killed and an estimated 144,000 were injured in crashes that involved red-light running.

Police can't be at an intersection 24/7.

The City of Amarillo does not have enough police officers to set up conventional police enforcement at each signalized intersection.

We want to change driver behavior.

The ultimate goal of Amarillo's Traffic Signal Safety Program is to change driver behavior. Every driver makes a decision when approaching an intersection where the light has just turned red. Impatient drivers often choose to continue through the intersection, ignoring the law and putting lives at risk.

Be Safe. STOP!

How the system works

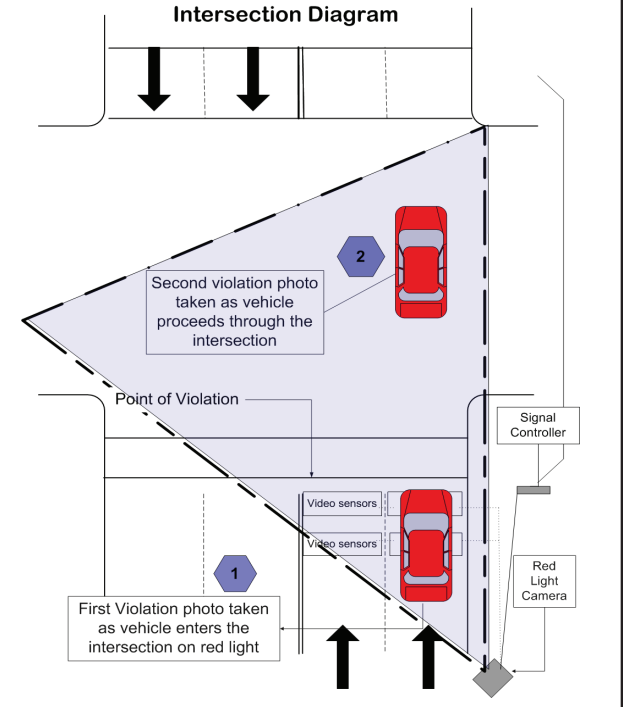
Selection of the intersections was based on the City traffic engineer's careful study of each individual intersection using national and state recognized procedures.

Traffic Signal Safety cameras monitor intersection approaches through advanced detection and imaging technology.

The safety cameras only photograph a vehicle if it enters the intersection after the light has turned red. A second photograph is taken as the vehicle progresses through the intersection.

Vehicles that enter an intersection on a yellow light are not photographed even if they are still in the intersection when the light changes to red. The technology is designed to record motorists as they intentionally enter an intersection after the signal turns red.

The camera photographs the vehicle from the rear. No photo is taken of the driver. The camera records the date, time, lane number, location and speed of the vehicle. A video clip of the event is also recorded.



Notices Approved by Amarillo Police Department

Amarillo Police Officers review the photos and video of each apparent violation. The Police Department verifies that a violation has occurred and determines whether a notice of violation should be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Red-Light Cameras Enhance Safety

Red-light violations contribute substantially to the one million intersection collisions that occur nationally each year. When red-light safety cameras are operational, deaths and injuries related to red-light running are reduced.

- A 2005 review of red-light camera studies around the world concluded that cameras reduce red-light violations by 40-50 percent and reduce injury crashes by 25-30 percent.
- Garland, Texas crashes caused by red-light runners decreased by 56 percent at the four intersections where cameras were installed.
- Houston, Texas reported a 30 percent reduction in crashes overall during the first six months of operation of the City's Intersection Safety program.

City of Amarillo, Texas
Traffic Signal Safety Program
Mail to:
PO Box 12129
Scottsdale AZ 85227-2129

NOTICE OF VIOLATION
NOTICE #: 0730500012345
PIN #: 1234
Amount Due: \$75.00
Due Date: Issue + 30

JOHN A SMITH
123 MAIN STREET
AMARILLO, TX 79101

CHARGE: 08/08/2007 AT TIME: 11:56 AM AT LOCATION: MILAN STREET SB @ MCGOWAN STREET

OFFENSE: 08/12/2007

DRIVER: JOHN A SMITH
STATE: TX
LICENSE: 79101

VEHICLE: 2005 Toyota
MAKE: Toyota
MODEL: Camry
YEAR: 2005
STATE: TX
PLATE: RB6825

VIOLATION: Automated Red Light Enforcement - Running a Red Light

AMOUNT DUE: \$75.00

City of Amarillo, Texas
Traffic Signal Safety Program
PO Box 742503
Cincinnati, OH 45274-2503

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