

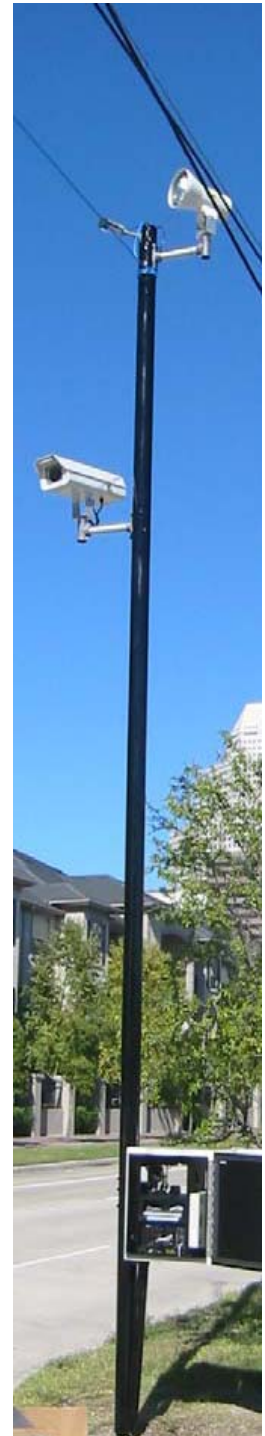


Red Light Cameras Do Affect Driver Behavior

The ultimate goal of the City of Houston's red light camera traffic safety program is to change driver behavior. Every driver makes a decision when approaching an intersection where the light has just turned to red. Impatient drivers often choose to continue through the intersection, ignoring the law and putting lives at risk.

Red light cameras, used by more than 400 U.S. communities in 25 states and the District of Columbia, have led to significant decreases in intersection violations and crashes, deaths and injuries. At the same time they have saved millions in societal costs. A U.S. Federal Highway Administration funded study estimated total societal cost reductions from red light camera programs in seven U.S. cities to be over \$14 million per year, or more than \$38,000 for each studied red light camera location.

- In New Orleans, LA, redlight cameras led to an 85% drop in red light running.
- In Council Bluffs, IA, red light cameras led to a 90% reduction in red light running crashes. Camera led to a 40% reduction in red light runnin crashes in Davenport.
- A Texas A&M Texas Transportation Institute study found traffic crashes at redlight camera locations across Texas decreased by approximately 30%. Right angle crashes, which usually produce the most deaths and injuries, dropped by 43%.
- A review of 10 U.S. and international red light camera research studies, conducted by the respected Cochrane Collaboration, found "Red light cameras are effective in reducing total casualty crashes.....In the best conducted of these studies, the reduction was nearly 30%."
- A multi-year study of the red light camera program in Virginia Beach found red light running violations more than tripled after the law permitting the city ot use red light cameras was allowed to expire in 2005. Results showed that red light cameras provided a strong deterrent against red light running and that once the cameras were turned off, aggressive drivers returned t their old habits.
- Columbus, OH, saw violations at its first two red light camera intersections drop from 1,684 in March 2006 to 477 in August 2006, a 71% decrease. There was only one crash at the two intersections, which earh recorded between 5 and 14 crashes per year before the cameras were installed.
- An Orange County, CA, government report found that one year after red light camera installation, crashes at monitored intersections dropped by 46.7% in Garden Grove, 28.2% in Costa Mesa, 16.2% in Santa Ana, 12.1 % in San Juan Capistrano and 5.7% in Fullerton.



Source:

"Red light Cameras: A Proven Method to Save Lives," National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running, www.stopredlightrunning.com/html/redlight.htm.

