

MYTHS FACTS

"Red light enforcement cameras and speed cameras are the same."

Red light cameras do not capture the speed of a vehicle. A red light camera (or red light enforcement camera) is a type of traffic enforcement camera that captures an image of a vehicle if it has entered an intersection in spite of the traffic signal indicating red/stop. By automatically photographing vehicles that run red lights (or fail to make a complete stop before making a right turn), the municipality secures evidence that assists authorities in their enforcement of traffic laws.

The sole purpose of installing red light cameras is to generate revenue for municipalities.

The first goal of a red light camera program is to improve public safety by reducing injuries and deaths caused by accidents.

Red light camera violations are considered "moving violations" that will affect a person's driving record.

Violations are considered "non-moving violations" and do not affect a person's driving record.

Making a rolling "hollywood" stop, as a driver checks for oncoming vehicles before turning right on a red light, is a violation in the eyes of a red light camera.

A driver may be cited with a violation if he or she fails to bring the vehicle to a complete stop (tires not rolling) before turning right on red (where permissible). However, this depends entirely on each municipality's standard.

If the driver enters the intersection when the light is green or yellow, a red light camera violation will be issued.

If a driver enters the intersection when the light is green or yellow, that driver will NOT receive a "Notice of Violation." It is legal to clear the intersection if one is already in the intersection when the light turns red.

All red light photo enforcement systems are owned and operated by the same company.

No. There are several companies that provide red light running photo enforcement systems across the United States and internationally. Each company operates independent of each other and all contracts with municipalities are tailored to the requests and operational needs of the municipality.

Red light cameras increase car crashes across the board.

The Cochrane Collaboration, an international public health organization, reviewed 10 controlled before/after studies of red light camera effectiveness. Based on the most rigorous studies, there was an estimated 13-29 percent reduction in all types of injury crashes and a 24 percent reduction in right-angle injury crashes where automated photo enforcement was used. The review did not find a statistically significant change in rear-end injury crashes.

If a driver stops his or her vehicle past the white stop bar he or she will receive a violation notice.

No. As of January 2011, the Illinois legislature passed a bill that precludes any municipality from issuing a citation if a vehicle comes to a complete stop even if that stop is after the white stop bar.

Photos or video of red light violations are only reviewed by local law enforcement before a ticket is issued.

Generally technicians examine the footage first for image clarity and accuracy. All violations related to emergency vehicles, funeral processions, marked police vehicles and vehicles that come to complete stops before making right turns or which clear intersections lawfully are removed. From there the remaining possible violations are then sent to local law enforcement personnel for review.

Red light cameras capture evidence of every vehicle that passes through an intersection.

Red light cameras only capture hi-resolution photographs of vehicles that blatantly run red lights.

Photographs are not taken of:

- Vehicles stopped at stop lines, crosswalks, or edges of intersections
- Vehicles that stop at intersections, then legally turn right (or left onto one-way streets)
- Vehicles in intersections after the light has turned red that are completing intersection traversal or making left turns
- Vehicles that enter intersections yielding to emergency vehicles or funeral processions.