

# Why

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## **Why is the City of Canton installing traffic cameras?**

The City will be installing traffic enforcement camera systems in school zones, on neighborhood streets, and at busy or dangerous intersections to address road safety concerns.

## **Why here? Why now?**

The City of Canton has conducted extensive research into how modern technology (traffic cameras) can assist police in reducing vehicle crashes, injuries, and deaths.

Every day, hundreds of motorists run red lights and drive in excess of the posted speed limit on the streets of Canton. With nearly 200 traffic signals and hundreds of miles of roadways in the city, enforcement of traffic laws has become a very difficult task.

Traffic enforcement cameras are a reality in most major cities throughout the state. Cleveland, Columbus, Akron, Toledo, Dayton, and Springfield have all installed cameras (some as early as the year 2000). Canton is simply catching up to what many cities in Ohio have already discovered: traffic enforcement cameras work.

## **Why is the City of Canton paying a private company to help enforce local traffic laws?**

The City has recognized the need for traffic enforcement cameras, but does not have the ability to purchase, install, and maintain such cameras at this time.

Therefore, in exchange for performing these services, the City of Canton has agreed to pay a small portion of all fines generated by the system to a private company (Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc.) that specializes in traffic enforcement systems.

Under this arrangement, the City also benefits by not burdening itself with a costly system - all upgrades, parts, labor, and replacements are the responsibility of the private company and not the City of Canton.

# How

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## **How do I know if an intersection or roadway is monitored by a traffic camera?**

School zones and speed enforcement areas will be marked with signs bearing the words "camera enforced" or "photo enforced." Red light cameras will also be marked leading up to the intersection.

*Please Note:* Not knowing about the presence of a traffic enforcement camera does not give a driver grounds for the dismissal of a traffic camera violation.

## **How do I contest a traffic camera violation?**

Any recipient who believes a traffic camera violation was issued in error has two options:

### **Re-assigning Violations**

If the recipient is the owner of the vehicle but was not driving it at the time of the violation, he or she may assign the violation to the proper individual on the form mailed with the violation.

### **Administrative Hearing**

If a recipient would like to dispute the violation, he or she may request an administrative hearing in accordance with the process described on the violation. This process is also available on the City of Canton's Web site at [www.cantonohio.gov/traffic](http://www.cantonohio.gov/traffic).

## **How can I find out more about the City of Canton's traffic cameras?**

The City of Canton has placed a large amount of information about traffic cameras on its Web site at [www.cantonohio.gov/traffic](http://www.cantonohio.gov/traffic). Residents can also call the Office of Public Safety directly at (330) 438-4305 to learn more and have their questions answered.

This brochure was created by the City of Canton with assistance from Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc.

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# TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



This information is a service of the  
**Office of Public Safety**  
City of Canton, Ohio  
[www.cantonohio.gov/safety](http://www.cantonohio.gov/safety)

# Who

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## Who benefits from traffic cameras?

### **Canton Drivers**

According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, careless or reckless drivers cause nearly 16,000 accidents on roadways in the City of Canton each year. These crashes result in (on average) 1,235 injuries and 7 fatalities per year. Traffic cameras give police the ability to enforce traffic laws without overstressing their resources.

### **Canton Taxpayers**

Because the City of Canton does not have to purchase, maintain, or replace the traffic cameras, taxpayers can receive the benefits of traffic cameras without the high cost of buying and maintaining them.

### **Canton Residents**

Traffic cameras allow the City to better serve residents by generating revenue without increasing taxes. Funds from traffic cameras will help to ensure that critical city services are not reduced when declining funds force budget cuts.

## Who is responsible for issuing violations?

The City of Canton is the only entity permitted to issue a violation from a traffic enforcement camera. The traffic camera company does not issue any violations.

## Who reviews the photo evidence to determine if a violation has occurred?

A City of Canton police officer will be responsible for reviewing all alleged violations and determining whether or not a violation has occurred. The traffic camera company does not review any violations.

## Who will receive the violation once it has been captured by traffic cameras?

The owner of the vehicle will receive the violation in the mail. He or she may then assign the violation to another driver (with the enclosed form) if the owner was not responsible for committing the violation.

# What<sup>(if)</sup>

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## What effect does a traffic camera citation have upon my driving record?

None. All penalties for traffic camera violations are civil penalties, and therefore will not show up as “points” on your driving record.

## What happens if someone else drives my car and receives a traffic camera citation?

If you allow another person to use your car and they incur a traffic camera citation, just fill out a simple form and have the violation applied to that person. You will not be liable for violations that happen when you are not behind the wheel unless you choose not to identify another driver.

## What precautions are in place to prevent the system from issuing a ticket by mistake?

All alleged traffic violations will be reviewed by a City of Canton police officer before a citation is issued. Only these trained law enforcement officers will be able to approve a traffic violation - there are no “automatic” tickets generated by the camera system.

## What if traffic conditions force me to remain in the intersection after the light turns red?

If you have already crossed the intersection boundary before the light turns red, you will not receive a citation. This rule also applies when drivers legally turn using a left or right-hand turn lane.

## What if I am turning right on red (in accordance with Ohio law)? Will I receive a violation?

No. The system is set up to ignore legal right-hand turns when the light is red (assuming the driver follows all standard traffic safety laws while making the turn).

*Please Note: These are only but a few of the most popular questions that have been asked regarding traffic enforcement cameras. To have a specific question answered, please contact the Office of Public Safety at (330) 438-4305 or visit our Web site at: [www.cantonohio.gov/traffic](http://www.cantonohio.gov/traffic) to see if your question may have already been answered.*

# When

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## When do I get to see the photo(s) used by the City to produce a traffic violation?

All traffic citations that are produced as a result of traffic enforcement cameras will be mailed to recipients. Each will contain three photographs: a front-angle photo (with driver face), a rear-angle photo, and a zoom license plate photo. Residents may also go online to view their violation photos at [www.photonotice.com](http://www.photonotice.com).

## When should I contest a violation if I believe it was issued in error?

All drivers who receive traffic camera violations have the right to request an administrative hearing to determine if a violation is valid. Drivers should begin this process as soon as they receive a violation in the mail to avoid late fees or other penalties.

# Where

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## Where will traffic cameras be installed?

The City of Canton plans to install permanent and/or mobile cameras in school zones, on neighborhood streets, and at busy or dangerous intersections. If a particular area is experiencing a high number of traffic accidents or if residents feel unsafe due to dangerous drivers, temporary cameras may also be installed on an as-needed basis.

City engineers will assist in the placement of traffic cameras to ensure that problem areas are consistently enforced. Yellow light timers will also be checked and monitored to ensure compliance with state regulations.

A regularly updated list and/or map containing all permanent locations for City traffic enforcement cameras is maintained on the City's Web site at [www.cantonohio.gov/traffic](http://www.cantonohio.gov/traffic).