



January 31, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Walsh, Chairman
House Transportation Committee
New Hampshire General Court
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Walsh:

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports House Bill (HB) 305 to allow municipalities to use safety cameras for automated traffic enforcement (AE). AE is proven to curb speeding and red light running and is a vital tool to ensure the health and safety of New Hampshire families and visitors who travel on the state's roads.

In 2023, an estimated 129 people were killed in traffic crashes in New Hampshireⁱ, a 36 percent increase in little under a decade.ⁱⁱ While speeding is a factor in 29ⁱⁱⁱ percent of fatal crashes in the U.S., in New Hampshire speeding is a cause in 36 percent of these type of crashes and the state is among the top 10 states with the highest proportion of speeding related fatalities.^{iv} Additionally, the Granite State incurred \$1.67 billion in economic harm due to motor vehicle crashes which is equivalent to \$1,223 per resident according to a 2019 analysis.^{vi}

Crash tests show that speed upticks of even five to ten miles-per-hour (mph) greatly increases the driver's risk of injury or death.^{vii} Speed increases immensely impact pedestrians and other vulnerable road users (VRUs). The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.^{viii} Further, drivers who speed have been shown to exhibit other deadly driving behaviors; more than half (52 percent) of speeding passenger vehicle drivers in fatal crashes were unbuckled, compared to 22 percent of non-speeding drivers.^{ix}

Speed safety cameras are verified to deter speeding and its impact and are recommended for adoption by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), among others.^x A study found that speed safety cameras alone resulted in a 19 percent reduction in the likelihood that a crash resulted in a fatal or incapacitating injury.^{xi} Similarly, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) found that speed safety cameras reduce fatalities and injuries by 20-37 percent and are particularly effective in school and construction zones.^{xii}

Americans are more likely to be injured in a red light running related event than any other crash.^{xiii} In 2022, 1,149 people were killed and an estimated 107,000 were injured in red light running crashes in the U.S.^{xiv} In fact, 25 percent of drivers admit to running a red light in the past 30 days^{xv} even though 83 percent believe that doing so is "very" or "extremely" dangerous.^{xvi} Red light cameras are a proven tool to deter this behavior. The Journal of Safety Research found that rates of fatal red light running crashes were 21 percent lower and all fatal crashes were 14 percent lower at signalized intersections in cities with camera programs.^{xvii} Conversely, cities that took down their red light safety cameras experienced a 30 percent increase in deadly red light running crashes and a 16 percent increase in fatal crashes at signalized intersections overall.^{xviii} This "spillover" effect, wherein people modify their driving habits to avoid running red lights at intersections with and without safety cameras, amplifies the benefits of such programs overall.

Law enforcement risk their lives on the roadways every day, and it is implausible for law enforcement officers to be everywhere and catch every violation. AE augments traditional enforcement without requiring a traffic stop.

We urge you to advance HB 305 to save lives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Kurdock, General Counsel

cc: House Transportation Committee members

- i Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2023, NHTSA, April 2024, DOT HS 813 561, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813561>.
- ii State Traffic Safety Information for New Hampshire (2022), NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
- iii NHTSA. (2024). Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2022. U.S. Department of Transportation, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813560>.
- iv State Traffic Safety Information for New Hampshire (2022), NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
- v Traffic Safety Facts: 2022 Data, Speeding, NHTSA, July 2024, DOT HS 813 582, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813582>.
- vi The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, December 2022, DOT HS 813 403, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
- vii Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.
- viii Impact Speed and a Pedestrian’s Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available [here](#).
- ix Traffic Safety Facts 2022 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jul. 2024, DOT HS 813582, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813582>.
- x Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at <https://www.ntsb.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>.
- xi Effects of Automated Speed Enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland on Vehicle Speeds, Public Opinion and Crashes, IIHS, August; available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2097>.
- xii Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide, Federal Highway Administration, January 2023, available at [Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide](#).
- xiii “If You Run a Red Light You are Betting More than You Can Lose,” Federal Highway Administration, available at <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/signal/fhwas11016.pdf>.
- xiv Red Light Running, IIHS, available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/red-light-running#overview>.
- xv 2022 Traffic Safety Culture Index, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, November 2023, available at <https://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/AAAFTS-TSCI-Technical-Report.pdf>.
- xvi Ibid.
- xvii Effects of turning on and off red light cameras on fatal crashes in large U.S. cities, Journal of Safety Research, June 2017, available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/bibliography/ref/2121>.
- xviii Ibid.