



May 29, 2025

The Honorable Brendan P. Crighton, Chair
The Honorable James Arciero, Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
24 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Chair Crighton and Chair Arciero:

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 the following legislation to enable use of automated enforcement (AE), speed and red light safety cameras. AE is a proven technology and a vital tool to ensure roadway safety.

- Senate Bill (SB) 2344/House Bill (HB) 3754 and HB 4087: would allow municipalities to use red light safety cameras.
- SB 2344/HB 3754: would also allow municipalities to use speed safety cameras.
- HB 3660: would allow use of speed safety cameras in work zones.
- HB 3905: would allow speed safety cameras in Salem school zones.

In 2023, 343 people were killed in traffic crashes in Massachusetts.ⁱ Fatalities involving speeding increased 33 percent from 2014-2023 and speeding is a factor in one-third of the state's traffic fatalities.ⁱⁱ Additionally, the Bay State incurs \$7.4 billion in economic harm due to motor vehicle crashes, which is equivalent to \$1,072 per resident according to a 2019 analysis.ⁱⁱⁱ When updated for inflation alone, in 2025, costs would equate to \$9.3 billion and \$1,353 respectively.^{iv}

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.^v 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.^{vi} 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.^{vii}

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.^{viii} 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.^{ix} 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.^x

Americans are more likely to be injured in a red light running related event than any other crash.^{xi} In 2022, 1,149 people were killed and an estimated 107,000 were injured in red light running crashes in the U.S.^{xii} In fact, 25 percent of drivers admit to running a red light in the past 30 days^{xiii} even though 83 percent believe that doing so is “very” or “extremely” dangerous.^{xiv} 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.^{xv} 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.^{xvi} 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 roadways every day, and it is implausible for officers to be everywhere and catch every violation. AE augments traditional enforcement without requiring a traffic stop.

We urge you to advance SB 2344/HB 3754, HB 4087, HB 3660 and HB 3905. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Kurdock
General Counsel

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- i State Traffic Safety Information for Massachusetts, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
 - ii State Traffic Safety Information for Massachusetts, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.
 - iii NHTSA. 2023. The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019 (Revised), available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
 - iv CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2025, available at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.
 - v 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>.
 - vi Impact Speed and a Pedestrian’s Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available [here](#).
 - vii Traffic Safety Facts 2022 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jul. 2024, DOT HS 813582, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813582>.
 - viii Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles, NTSB, July 2017, SS-17-01, available at <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>.
 - ix 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>.
 - x Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide, Federal Highway Administration, January 2023, available at [Speed Safety Camera Program Planning and Operations Guide](#).
 - xi “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/fhwasa11016.pdf>.
 - xii Red Light Running, IIHS, available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/red-light-running#overview>.
 - xiii 2022 Traffic Safety Culture Index, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, November 2023, available at <https://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/AAAFST-TSCI-Technical-Report.pdf>.
 - xiv 2022 Traffic Safety Culture Index, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, November 2023, available at <https://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/AAAFST-TSCI-Technical-Report.pdf>.
 - xv 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>.
 - xvi 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>.