



## "SLOW DOWN NYC"

A New York State Law to Enact a Speed Camera Demonstration Program for New York City

A7737 (Glick)

### Summary

This law authorizes the City of New York to establish a speed camera demonstration program. The program would place a maximum of 40 cameras throughout the five boroughs in locations where speeding and speed-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities are prevalent. The law places liability on the owners of vehicles found to be driving in excess of the posted speed limit. Owners would **not be subject to points on their license**. Violations will be administered under the Parking Violations Bureau and individuals will still have the right to contest their tickets. **Photos are only taken of license plates and not of the driver. Monetary liability is imposed at 5 mph over the speed limit.**

### NYC's Deadly Speeding Epidemic

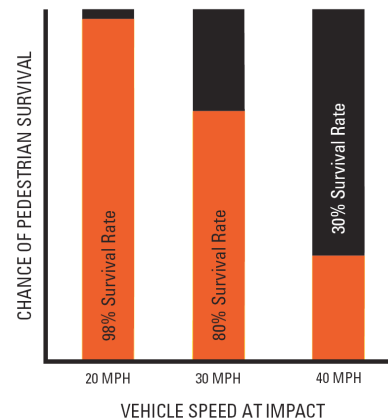
On average, 39% of city motorists exceed the established speed limit.<sup>i</sup> Rampant speeding deteriorates public safety. In 2009, 71 people were killed and 3,739 people were injured as the result of speeding-related crashes in New York City.<sup>ii</sup> Furthermore, according to 2009 New York State DMV Data, speeding causes **more fatal crashes in NYC than any other driving behavior**.

### Speeding Across the Boroughs: Five Snapshots of Local Streets<sup>iii</sup>

- In Manhattan, 70% of drivers on East Houston Street speed through a school zone.
- In the Bronx, 32% of drivers on Webster Avenue speed past a school as fast as 66mph.
- In Queens, 32% of drivers on Northern Boulevard speed through a busy commercial area, past a school and police station.
- In Brooklyn, 88% of drivers on Rogers Avenue in Prospect Lefferts Gardens speed.
- On Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island's most dangerous street, 39% of drivers exceed the speed limit, many reaching fatal speeds over 60mph.

### Speed Kills

With better enforcement, speeding deaths are preventable. Pedestrians are at a heightened risk of injury in speed-related crashes: if a pedestrian is hit by a car at 30 mph there is a 20% chance the pedestrian will be killed, but if the driver strikes a pedestrian at 40 mph – only 10 mph above the speed limit- the chances the pedestrian will be killed increase to 70%.<sup>iv</sup>



### Cameras Help the NYPD

New York City has 12,500 signalized intersections and 6,000 miles of streets and highways. Especially now, with fewer resources for the NYPD, the agency needs support on the streets. There are simply too many drivers speeding and not enough enforcement resources. Speed cameras can be a police force multiplier. Washington, D.C.'s Chief of Police, Cathy L. Lanier, estimated that their automated enforcement programs have taken the place of 100 officers.<sup>v</sup>

New York City's existing red-light camera program is an excellent example of how a successful automated enforcement program can support the NYPD. Cameras now issue as much as 95.5% of all red light summonses, freeing up officers to tackle crime. Furthermore, since the red light camera program's inception, violations have dropped by 73%.<sup>vi</sup> Similar results and increased officer staffing flexibility could be achieved with a speed camera demonstration program.

## Proven Success: Cameras are a Low Cost and Effective Tool to Reduce Speeding

Speed cameras are a low-cost and proven technology that saves lives. Speed cameras are now in place in over 70 communities in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and the District of Columbia. Research supports the effectiveness of cameras. In Washington D.C., Scottsdale, Arizona, and Montgomery County, Maryland, the number of drivers traveling more than 10 mph over the speed limit fell by up to 88 percent after speed cameras were put in place, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.<sup>vii</sup> In Scottsdale, speeding jumped a 1,047 percent after the city temporarily shut off its cameras.<sup>viii</sup>

Abroad in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, speed cameras have produced dramatic results. A 2006 review found a 14-72% reduction in all crashes around camera sites and a 40-45% reduction in crashes involving fatalities and injuries.<sup>ix</sup>

## Fiscally Prudent

Speed cameras are also a smart choice when budgets are stretched thin. Commenting on the Mayor's recent budget cuts, Patrick Lynch of the Patrolman's Benevolent Association remarked, "Staffing levels at the NYPD have reached the breaking point already. Safe streets are a magnet for prosperity just as dangerous streets prevent neighborhoods from thriving. It would be in the city's best fiscal interest to spend the dollars it does have beefing up the fight against crime, terrorism and disorder."

## Enforce Existing Laws

New York State law currently prohibits driving over the speed limit. This legislation simply makes it easier to enforce existing laws.

## Protect Civil Liberties

Images captured by safe speed detection devices would not identify the driver, passengers or contents of the vehicle. Use of the images is restricted to speed violations, except at the specific request of a law enforcement official pertaining to a specific incident.

## No Points, Just a Parking Violation

Speeding tickets issued with the help of speed cameras would not carry points.

## Reasonable Fines

Mph Above Speed Limit	Fine
5-10	\$50
10-30	\$75
30 +	\$150

## A Pilot Program

This program will sunset 5 years after enactment.



NYC DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan and NYC City Council transportation chair James Vacca measure speeds on Atlantic Avenue with students from PS 261.

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## ASSEMBLY SPONSORS

**Co-Sponsors:** Glick, Bing, Benedetto, Millman, Cook, Gottfried, Weprin, P.Rivera, Titone.

**Multi-Sponsors:** Lupardo, Robinson, Tobacco.

**T.A. and its 8,500+ members urge the passage of this bill.**

<sup>i</sup> Transportation Alternatives, *Terminal Velocity: New York City's Speeding Epidemic*, February 2009.

<sup>ii</sup> New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, *Summary of New York City Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2009*.

<sup>iii</sup> Transportation Alternatives, *Terminal Velocity: New York City's Speeding Epidemic*, February 2009.

<sup>iv</sup> Rosen, E., Sander, U. Pedestrian Fatality as a Function of Car Impact Speed. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 41: 531-542, 2009.

<sup>v</sup> Halsey, A. (2011, February 1). Red-light cameras save lives, study says. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

<sup>vi</sup> Petrozza, J. (2010). *Road Safety Camera Programs*. Retrieved from Transportation Alternatives' website: <http://www.transalt.org/files/events/summit/petrozza.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> Fields, M. (2010). *Speeding and Speed Enforcement*. Retrieved from Transportation Alternatives' website: <http://www.transalt.org/files/events/summit/fields.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> Petrozza, J. (2010). *Road Safety Camera Programs*. Retrieved from Transportation Alternatives' website: <http://www.transalt.org/files/events/summit/petrozza.pdf>

<sup>ix</sup> Wilson, C., Willis, C., Hendrikz, J.K., & Bellany, N., Speed Enforcement Detection Devices for Preventing Road Traffic Injuries. Oxfordshire, England: *The Cochrane Database*.