

# MEMO

**To:** Community's Police Advisory Committee

**From:** Carrie Wilhelme, Principal Transportation Planner

**Date:** December 4, 2024

**Subject:** Commission Representation on Automated Enforcement Task Force

---

## **Purpose of Request**

To support Tacoma's Vision Zero goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries, the City of Tacoma is looking to expand the use of automated traffic enforcement cameras. The city is forming a limited-duration Task Force to help guide the expansion. The purpose of today's presentation is to seek one representative from the Community's Police Advisory Committee to participate on the Automated Enforcement (AE) Task Force.

## **Project Summary**

Automated enforcement cameras are an effective tool that can deter hazardous driving behaviors and improve safety for all road users. While one of the most impactful ways to change driver behavior is through redesigning the roadway, in the short-term, automated enforcement may be the appropriate tool to reduce speed and crashes. The use of automated enforcement is identified as a Transformative Action in Tacoma's Vision Zero Action Plan.

Tacoma currently has seven intersections that have red-light automated enforcement cameras, two school zone enforcement cameras, and one automated speed enforcement camera. Effective June 6, 2024, Washington law expanded the types of locations where automated enforcement cameras can be used, such as on high speed corridors. The proposed Task Force will help guide the expansion of automated enforcement systems in Tacoma, balancing public safety improvements with equity considerations.

The Automated Enforcement Task Force will include representation from city staff, relevant city Commissions, and community. The Task Force will help address equity by taking in consideration the potential impacts on different communities when expanding, reviewing the methodology for selecting new camera locations to align with safety and equity goals, and providing feedback on outreach strategies to inform the public effectively when new cameras are installed.

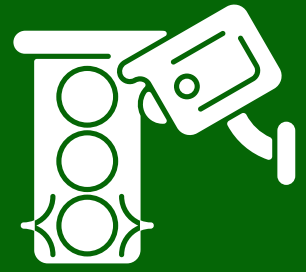
## **Next Steps**

Public Works staff is seeking one representative from the Community's Police Advisory Committee to serve on the Automated Enforcement Task Force. The meetings would begin in February 2025. The Task Force would meet for 1 hour-1.5 hours in a hybrid setting mid-afternoon/lunch time. The meetings would occur over a 3-4 month timeframe.

## **More Information**

City of Tacoma Webpage for Automated Enforcement: [Automated Traffic Safety Cameras - City of Tacoma](#)

# City of Tacoma Automated Enforcement Program



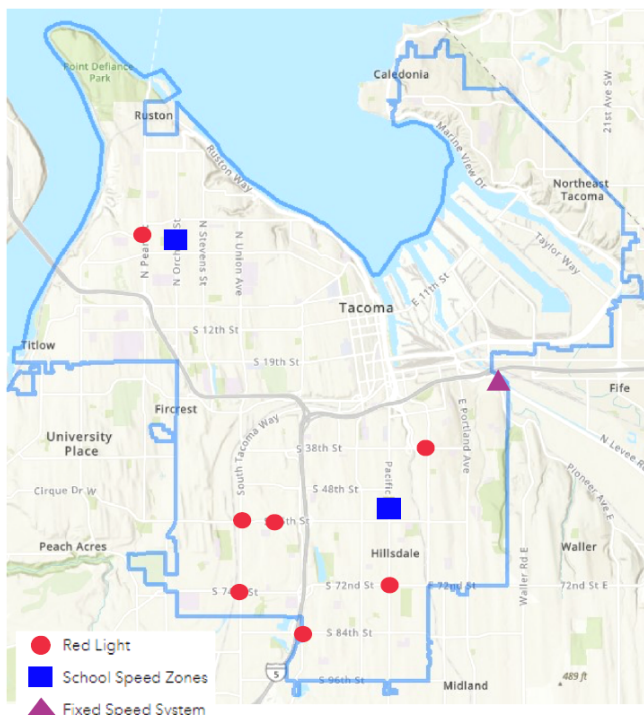
Automated enforcement uses cameras to capture a license plate image when a driver commits a traffic violation, such as speeding and red light running.

## Why is it used?

Automated enforcement cameras are an effective tool that can deter hazardous driving behaviors and improve safety for all road users. While the most impactful way to change driver behavior is through redesigning the roadway, in the short-term, automated enforcement may be the appropriate tool to reduce speed and crashes. The National Transportation Safety Board recommends the use of automated enforcement as an effective countermeasure for reducing the frequency and severity of speed-related crashes and reducing speeding. The use of automated enforcement is identified as a Transformative Action in Tacoma's Vision Zero Action Plan.

## Where is it currently located?

## What is the penalty?



Currently school zone speed cameras are only used at Downing Elementary and Stewart Middle School.

The fine in Tacoma is \$124. Fines can be paid using a payment plan for no extra fee. Automated enforcement infractions are civil infractions, similar to a parking ticket. They are not reported to the Department of Licensing or to insurance.

When a driver runs a red light or speeds over the posted speed limit, the automated enforcement system detects the violation and takes a photo and video of the license plate. Trained law enforcement staff review the photo and video. If enforcement staff confirm there was a violation, a citation case is created and a notice of violation is issued to the registered driver of the vehicle.

Violators are directed to [zerofatality.com](https://www.zerofatality.com) to review the violation and see options for a response.