

Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology Guidelines

Province of Alberta

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A. PREAMBLE

Automated traffic enforcement technology is an important tool to enhance traffic safety. These guidelines are designed to ensure fairness and consistency in the use of automated traffic enforcement technology across Alberta. Devices falling under this program include speed and red light enforcement technologies.

Albertans value the safety and security of their communities. They expect that drivers who endanger the lives and well-being of others will be detected and charged. They want to know their children will be safe when they cross the road to school. Road construction workers need safe working conditions, commuters want to drive to and from work in safety and police officers need protection when conducting traffic enforcement.

Automated traffic enforcement technology is one tool that can be used to enforce traffic laws and should only be operated with the support of the local police service. Police services in Alberta not only have the primary responsibility for traffic safety enforcement but also have the expertise to determine where automated traffic enforcement technology can best be deployed to compliment existing traffic safety initiatives. Automated traffic enforcement technology programs under the direction of police will ensure compliance with existing standards and consistent enforcement practices geared towards traffic safety.

Recognizing each community has different policing needs and concerns, Albertans expect automated traffic enforcement technology to be used fairly and with consistency throughout the province. Public advisories, standard and consistent use of signage and clear site selection criteria will promote the appropriate application of these tools. Presently, communities that are policed by the RCMP under a municipal policing contract or have their own police service can use automated traffic enforcement technology within their municipal boundaries.

Automated traffic enforcement technology, combined with other speed enforcement methods, education and awareness can help reduce the number and severity of collisions on our roads.

These guidelines include a requirement for ongoing evaluation to measure the effectiveness of automated traffic enforcement technology on lowering speeds and reducing collisions. *This evaluation process will be invaluable in educating the public on the effectiveness of automated traffic enforcement technology for enhancing traffic safety. The data will provide support to the continued use of this technology in Alberta.*

These guidelines apply to all municipalities who are currently using automated traffic enforcement technology, or are planning to use this technology.

B. PRINCIPLES - USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Traffic safety data must determine if and where automated traffic technology will be used. These criteria include, but are not restricted to, high-risk, high-frequency and high-collision locations.

- **High-risk locations** are those where the safety of citizens or police officers would be at risk through conventional enforcement methods.
- **High-frequency locations** are those where data indicates motorists are ignoring or breaking traffic laws on an ongoing basis.
- **High-collision locations** are those where data indicates a greater frequency of collisions.

It is also essential that automated traffic enforcement technology programs be used in conjunction with existing conventional enforcement and not used as a replacement for officer contact.

C. GUIDELINES

1. Organization

Presently, communities policed by the RCMP under a municipal policing contract or with their own police service, have the ability to use automated traffic enforcement technology within their municipal boundaries. In those locations an Automated Traffic Enforcement Program can be established:

- I. Within a police service
- II. Within a municipality
- III. As a contracted service to either of the above.

Regardless of which option is selected or in place, responsibility for the operation of the Automated Traffic Enforcement Program shall rest with the police service of jurisdiction, which will provide direction in the following areas by:

- Ensuring enforcement is conducted in accordance with local Traffic Safety Plans.
- Directing at which sites automated traffic enforcement technology is to be used.
- Setting periods of operation and duration of enforcement

2. Site Selection Criteria

Automated traffic enforcement technology sites will not be selected randomly.

One or more of these criteria must be met before automated traffic enforcement technology is deployed at a specific site.

- Where conventional enforcement is unsafe or ineffective.
- Areas or intersections with a history of collisions.
- Areas or intersections with an identifiable, documented history of speeding problems.
- Intersections with an identifiable, documented history of red light offences.
- High-speed, multi-lane arteries.
- School and playground zones or areas.
- Construction zones.
- Areas where the public or a community has expressed concerns related to speeding. Automated enforcement may be used to assess these public concerns and conduct enforcement as required.

The use of automated traffic technology in speed transition zones must be justified and reasonable based on the site selection criteria. Automated traffic technology should not be used in transition zones when a driver is approaching a higher speed zone and is within sight of a higher posted speed sign, unless there are well documented concerns that would justify its use.

3. Public Awareness

A. Reasoning

- A key element to the success of any enforcement practice, including the use of automated traffic enforcement technology, is the implementation of a strong public awareness campaign.

B. Signage

- Permanent signs shall be posted on primary access roads entering municipalities that use automated traffic enforcement technology, alerting the public that automated traffic enforcement technology is used as a speed and red light enforcement tool in the municipality.
- Freeways, major thoroughfares, or other roads that are monitored regularly by automated traffic enforcement technology shall have permanent signs along the route, in both directions, advising that speed is monitored by automated traffic enforcement technology.

- Temporary signs advising that speed is monitored by automated traffic technology shall be used where the technology is used infrequently or for a specific purpose. Temporary signs should be posted a reasonable distance before these locations. This should achieve the goal of gaining immediate compliance from motorists in reducing their speed at these high-risk locations.
- Intersections where automated traffic technology is used to monitor red light infractions shall have signs posted in advance of the intersection to advise drivers that red light cameras are in place.

C. New Automated Traffic Enforcement Programs

- Shall advertise in the local media for a period of three months prior to enforcement taking place.
- Shall, prior to full implementation, conduct a four- week familiarization period that would see the equipment in regular use but only issue 'warning notices' to motorists.

D. Public Awareness

- Automated traffic enforcement technology sites should be advertised on a weekly basis by notifying the local media and posting on an established web site, where possible.

4. Evaluation

Each enforcement agency shall evaluate the effectiveness of its use of automated traffic enforcement technology. The evaluation will be within the technological capabilities of the agency completing the evaluation. The results will be reported annually to Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

At a minimum, the evaluation shall address:

- The impact of automated traffic enforcement technology, over time, on reducing the speeds of violators at sites being monitored by photo radar.
- The number of collisions at the sites being monitored in those municipalities where this information is available.
- The number of sites monitored through automated enforcement.

5. Other

- Special Constable Appointments that allow the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology, will be granted or renewed after documentation is supplied by the employer to the Public Security Division of Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, indicating that the employer's policies require compliance with these guidelines.
- Special Constable Appointments allowing the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology will contain, as a condition of that appointment, a clause requiring compliance with Provincial Automated Traffic Enforcement Guidelines and Provincial Automated Traffic Enforcement Training Guidelines.
- The Public Security Division, at the direction of the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, may conduct audits to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

These guidelines will come into effect and force on May 1, 2006.