

Photo Radar Speed Enforcement for the City of Beaverton 2021

Executive Summary

Legislative Report Requirements

- Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 810.438 was amended in 2005 to require cities using photo radar equipment to conduct a process and outcome evaluation for the legislature once each biennium that includes; the effect of the use of the photo radar system on traffic safety; the degree of public acceptance of the use of the photo radar system; and the process of administration of the use of the photo radar system.

Effect of the Use of the Photo Radar System on Traffic Safety

- The yearly average number of speeding violations captured with the photo radar vans from 2003-2016 was 11,050. The average number of violations captured during 2017-2018 was 10,230 a 8.5% decrease. The average number of violations captured during 2019-2020 was 9,327 a 9.7% decrease. Portland Metro Population has increased since 2016.
- The average amount over the posted speed limit for 2003-2016 for violators ticketed was 12.1 mph. The average amount over the posted speed limit was 12.4 mph in 2017-2018.
- Seventy percent of the speeders detected by the City's photo radar vans did not live in Beaverton.

Degree of Public Acceptance

- Almost 80% of Beaverton citizens surveyed believed photo radar worked to some degree including 50% very well or fairly well.
- The opportunity for public comment continues to be available via the city website, city council meetings, police traffic hotline phone number and directly to the photo enforcement program coordinator. Feedback remains mostly positive.

The Process of Administration of the Use of Photo Radar

- Beaverton's photo radar program is well established and has been in operation for 26 years.
- An officer operates the photo radar van when violations are detected and maintains an observation log at each deployment. The vehicle's speed is displayed on a reader board mounted on the van.
- The City partners with a vendor who provides the equipment, maintenance, and citation processing at the direction of the City. In July 2018 the City changed vendors from Redflex to Conduent.
- Violations captured with the photo radar van are transmitted electronically to the City's vendor. The vendor looks at the images, identifies the violator's plate number and sends a request to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the registered owner information. The DMV electronically sends back the registered owner's information to the vendor. The violation details are reviewed by the officer along with the registered owner information to determine whether or not a citation should be created. When a violation is approved and becomes a citation, the vendor then mails the citation along with the photographs to the registered owner. The process from violation to citation mailing occurs within six business days in compliance with Oregon law. The registered owner has at least 30 days to respond to the citation and is afforded all of the same rights as a defendant would have with any traffic violation with the addition of the Certificate of Innocence and Certificate of Non-Liability form.
- A total of 9,318 speeding citations were issued using the photo radar vans from January 2019 through December 2020. Of the total citations issued during this period, 51.6% resulted in convictions, 15.3% were dismissed due to the submission of a Certificate of Innocence, 3.2% were dismissed due to the submission of a Certificate of Non-Liability and 12.4% were dismissed for other reasons including the completion of the City's Traffic School Diversion program.

For copies of the full report contact the Photo Enforcement Program Coordinator at 503-526-2540.