

FAQ's – SPEED CAMERAS

Why use speed cameras?

Speeding kills. New York City uses a variety of methods to encourage people to drive at safe speeds, including the installation of speed humps, the narrowing of wide travel lanes, the modification of traffic control signal timing, and the Police Department's enforcement of the speed limit.

Speed cameras are a technology which has been proven to save lives. Studies show that cities which use speed cameras reduced their fatal and serious injury crashes by 30-40%.¹ Speed cameras work at deterring illegal speeding because they provide consistent, predictable, and fair enforcement of the speed limit.

Is speeding actually dangerous?

Speeding drivers kill more New Yorkers than drunk drivers and drivers distracted by cell phones combined. Nearly one in three people killed in New York City traffic is killed by a speeding driver.

The faster a vehicle is moving, the harder it is for the driver of that vehicle to avoid a crash. And the faster a vehicle is moving when a crash occurs, the more damage is caused by the impact.

Even a small difference in vehicle speed makes a big impact in terms of safety – a pedestrian who is struck by a vehicle travelling at 30 MPH is twice as likely to be killed as a pedestrian struck by a vehicle travelling at 25 MPH.²

New York City's speed camera program serves to deter drivers from exceeding the speed limit by more than ten miles, which helps prevent serious crashes from occurring.

Speeding is a problem in my neighborhood. How can I request a speed camera?

Make a complaint about speeding [using this form](#). There are a number of methods to reduce speeding, including speed cameras. DOT will assess the speeding condition in your neighborhood, and evaluate the appropriate solution to remedy the condition.

How does NYC's speed camera program work?

NYC's speed camera program uses the same radar and laser technology relied upon by law enforcement to measure a vehicle's speed. If the radar finds that the vehicle is exceeding the speed limit by more than ten miles per hour, images of the vehicle are recorded along with an image of the license plate. The violation is reviewed by a trained DOT staff technician for accuracy. If the technician verifies that the identified vehicle was exceeding the speed limit by more than ten miles per hour, within a school speed zone on (1) school days during school hours and one hour before and one hour after the school day; or (2) a period during student activities at the school and up to 30 minutes immediately before and up to 30 minutes immediately after such school activities, he or she will issue a Notice of Liability.

How many speed cameras are in operation?

The City of New York operate speed cameras at up to 140 school speed zones each day.

Where are the cameras?

The City can only use speed cameras for enforcement within school speed zones. DOT uses fixed and mobile speed camera units within school speed zones to maximize the deterrent effect. When siting a camera, DOT considers criteria including, but not limited to speed data, the roadway geometry, and the crash history of that school speed zone.

¹ Wilson C, Willis C, Hendrikz JK, Le Brocque R, Bellamy N. Speed cameras for the prevention of road traffic injuries and deaths. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD004607. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004607.pub4. ([LINK](#))

² Tefft, Brian C., Impact Speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death. *Accident Analysis & Prevention* 2013 Jan 27;50:871-8 ([LINK](#))

Why not announce speed cameras locations?

It is illegal to speed anywhere within the City of New York, but the number of speed cameras is limited to a small percentage of the City's school speed zones. In order to maintain the program's effectiveness as a deterrent, DOT generally does not post signs or otherwise announce the location of speed cameras enforcing school speed zones.

When are the cameras issuing violations?

The City may only issue a violation on (1) school days during school hours and one hour before and one hour after the school day; and (2) a period during student activities at the school and up to 30 minutes immediately before and up to 30 minutes immediately after such school activities. Because school hours and student activities can vary, DOT contacts each school before beginning speed camera enforcement within that school speed zone.

How much is the fine for a violation issued by a speed camera?

The penalty for a speed camera violation is fifty dollars – far cheaper than a speeding ticket issued by a police officer.

Can a speed camera ticket lead to my insurance payment going up or to the addition of points to my driver's license?

Unlike a traditional speeding ticket, the speed camera violation is not made part of the operating record of the person receiving the violation with the Department of Motor Vehicles nor is it used for insurance purposes.

Do the cameras photograph every vehicle that passes by them?

No. The system takes photographs of only those vehicles that exceed the maximum speed limit by more than ten miles per hour, within a school speed zone on (1) school days during school hours and one hour before and one hour after the school day; or (2) a period during student activities at the school and up to 30 minutes immediately before and up to 30 minutes immediately after such school activities.

What if a ticket is issued erroneously?

DOT takes a number of steps in order to avoid erroneously issuing Notices of Liability. The camera equipment is evaluated daily, so that the radar is collecting precise and accurate measurements. In addition, motorists do not receive a ticket unless they exceed the speed limit by more than ten miles per hour. The technology used by the system distinguishes between speeding vehicles and nearby vehicles, and will not issue a ticket if it is unclear which vehicle is exceeding the speed limit by more than ten miles per hour. The New York City staff who review speed camera violations also reject every violation unless it is readily evident which vehicle was identified as exceeding the speed limit by more than ten miles per hour.

What if I wasn't driving my car when the violation occurred?

State law provides that vehicle owners are responsible for paying properly issued speed camera violations. An owner whose vehicle was stolen may provide a police report to the New York City Department of Finance when contesting the violation.

I received a ticket – now what?

The New York City Department of Finance processes the payment and adjudication of speed camera violations. You must respond to any Notice of Liability (NOL) within 30 days. You can pay or check the status of your NOL by following this [link](#). Inaction will lead to late penalties and interest will be added and continue to accrue until you pay or dispute your NOL. You also risk having your vehicle booted or towed if you ignore a speed camera violation.

It is your right to challenge an NOL which you believe was issued in error. You can dispute a violation online, by mail or in person. Find out more by following this [link](#) or by calling 311.

Does any private company earn more money or generate an extra fee if more speed camera violations are issued?

No.