



## Summary Findings from other Cities' Experiences with Red Light Photo Enforcement Cameras

- 1. Which vendor did you utilize to implement red light photo enforcement?**
  - a. 5 cities use Redflex, 4 cities use Nestor, 2 use ACS (Affiliated Computer Services) and 2 use ATS (American Traffic Solution).
  
- 2. Did you have any issues with the vendor in the installation or post installation phases?**
  - a. Most cities indicated there were no issues regarding with the vendor in the installation or post installation phases. Fremont PD suggests having a clause in the contract stating that the vendor will have 2-3 days to respond and handle a problem that comes up.
  
- 3. Did you receive any legal challenges to installing red light photo enforcement cameras?**
  - a. Most cities indicated they never received any legal challenges. Those who did, gave the following grounds for the legal challenges:
    - i. Speed traps
    - ii. Operator issues
  
- 4. Have you had any significant legal challenges from individuals who have received red light tickets (beyond just fighting the ticket)?**
  - a. Several cities have received challenges from those drivers who were issued tickets. These are the challenges they faced:
  - b. Roseville PD indicating that they have received some public records requests regarding the red light photo enforcement system. These requests can be time consuming.
  - c. Fremont PD received a challenge regarding the loop sensors being speed traps.
  - d. Several cities warned about the creator of the [www.highwayrobbery.net](http://www.highwayrobbery.net) making public records requests.
  - e. Pasadena PD received a challenge based on the scientific validity of the video cameras.
  
- 5. How was the red light photo enforcement concept received by your citizens?**
  - a. Every city, except San Diego, received no community backlash about the red light photo enforcement cameras. Each city indicated citizens who complained after receiving a ticket, but once they saw the video from the intersection they often agreed they were in the wrong.
  - b. Several cities stressed the importance of seeking public input and educating residents prior to the cameras being installed. Others suggested stressing the system as a public safety measure, not a revenue generator.



- **Fremont PD**- Signed the first contract with Redflex in 1999. Recently renewed the contract for another 5 years. By the end of the first 5 years 10 cameras total were in place. 1100-1500 cites are generated per month.
- **Bakersfield PD**- Redflex
- **Capitola PD**- American Traffic Solution (ATS).
- **Long Beach PD**- Nestor Traffic Systems.
- **Cathedral City PD**- American Traffic Solution (ATS).
- **Pasadena PD**- Nestor Traffic Services.
- **Beverly Hills PD**- Affiliated Computer Services (ACS).
- **Emeryville PD**- Redflex
- **Davis PD**- Nestor Traffic Systems
- **El Cajon PD**- Redflex

**11. Did you have any issues with the vendor in the installation or post installation phases?**

- **San Diego PD**- Issues arose in coordinating our private vendor, court service and the City Attorney's Office. Anytime staff changes at any of the three, the system seems to have problems for a period of time due to procedures not being followed.
- **Oxnard PD**- No issues.
- **Fremont PD**- There haven't been any big problems, just an occasional issue with the camera or looping. We have a clause in our contract that states they must respond within 2-3 days to handle the problem.
- **Bakersfield PD**- No, Redflex has been very responsive and attentive in this area.
- **Long Beach PD**- No major problems with the installation or tear down.
- **Cathedral City PD**- No issues up to this point. The firm worked very well with the City Engineers, as well as the sub-contractor who installed the system. We have had a couple of minor issues that have been immediately addressed, such as camera alignment, glare, etc. The firm has worked well with resolving those particular problems.
- **Pasadena PD**- Unaware of any issues, those were handled by Department of Transportation.
- **Beverly Hills PD**- There were a few issues which popped up on each location (yellow timing, camera angle, lighting strength, and proper signage).
- **Emeryville PD**- No issues and are quite happy with Redflex.
- **Davis PD**- They have been great all the way around.
- **El Cajon PD**- Done all they have promised. Was suspended for a short time because of the SDPD problems.

**12. Did you receive any legal challenges to installing red light photo enforcement cameras?**

- a. **San Diego PD**- All challenges were put to rest after redesigning the in ground systems to legally accepted specifications.

- b. **Oxnard PD**- No challenges.
- c. **Fremont PD**- No legal challenges.
- d. **Bakersfield PD**- We received a few but nothing that prohibited the use of the devices. There are a few violators who still argue the constitutionality of the cameras.
- e. **Capitola PD**- We've not received any legal challenges
- f. **Long Beach PD**- No major legal challenges.
- g. **Cathedral City PD**- No challenges.
- h. **Pasadena PD**- We have not had any significant legal challenges.
- i. **Beverly Hills PD**- We fielded quite a few court challenges (re: speed traps, operator issues, etc.) from local attorneys who wanted to build a practice for these citations.
- j. **Emeryville PD**- No significant legal challenges.
- k. **Davis PD**- We have not had any legal challenges. We just got our first court challenge on a cite after issuing over 300.
- l. **El Cajon PD**- No legal challenges.

**13. Have you had any significant legal challenges from individuals who have received red light tickets (beyond just fighting the ticket)?**

- a. **San Diego PD**- No, all challenges have been based on fighting the ticket.
- b. **Oxnard PD**- None.
- c. **Roseville PD**- There have been no significant challenges. There are a number of things you must do to avoid some legal pitfalls. One key things is to adopt a comprehensive policy that addresses your process (which needs to cover certain requirements as per the vehicle code.) The one annoyance are the people who have made it their mission to fight photo red light citations by making public records requests designed to annoy you and create busy work. My recommendations is that you save every related document somewhere and when you get your first public records request you send them an avalanche of paper and charge them accordingly. The vast majority of people who want to fight their tickets will view their video and then just pay their fine.
- d. **Fremont PD**- One legal challenge that we received regarding a red light ticket was regarding the loop sensors being speed traps. The Commissioner disagreed, however the lawyer has appealed the ruling. Normally the only time a case is lost is due to the photo being unclear or there is some doubt as to whether the R/O is the driver.
- e. **Bakersfield PD**- No
- f. **Cathedral City PD**- Not yet, but we have been contacted by the gentleman who runs the highwayrobbery.net website, and he has made a public records request from the City for the red light camera system information.
- g. **Pasadena PD**- A couple of attorneys have tired to argue on the scientific validity of video cameras but that defense did not hold-up in court.

**14. How was the red light photo enforcement concept received by your citizens?**

**San Diego PD-** Initially, faith in the system was extremely low due to the poor quality of the original system and procedures used to process the tickets. The system was shut down and redesigned at the intersections and the entire court and issuing process was revamped.

**a. Oxnard PD-**

- b. **Roseville PD-** Most of the citizens have been supportive. Even most of the violators agree with the ticket once they have reviewed the video. In addition, the accident rates at the cameras intersections have dropped.
- c. **Fremont PD-** We didn't have any problems in the beginning because we were the first city to implement the program in northern California. No one spoke against it when it went before Council. Complaints came in when we started citing for right turn on red violations.
- d. **Bakersfield PD-** Most people don't mind it, until they receive a citation. There is a great deal of discussion over whether or not they reduce accidents.
- e. **Capitola PD-** The red light photo enforcement program has been well received by citizens as the city council lobbied for the system and a substantial amount of public input was sought. We also engaged in a comprehensive media campaign prior to implementation.
- f. **Long Beach PD-** There has been mostly positive feedback from our citizens, except from those who were caught by the camera.
- g. **Cathedral City PD-** We had more support for it than opposition. We have been discussing it at Council for the better part of two years, and even had some media coverage prior to the actual development of the program.
- h. **Pasadena PD-** In my opinion the public does not like the red light cameras and sees it as a cash cow for the city.
- i. **Beverly Hills PD-** No major backlash was noticed from the citizens.
- j. **Emeryville PD-** The program has been well received by the community. It was a unanimous vote for City Council.
- k. **Davis PD-** Council and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee loved the idea. The rest of the population has not really said.
- l. **El Cajon PD-** Did public outreach, which explained why they were doing it and focused on public safety. Well received by the community.

**15. Have you met your revenue projections from the red light photo enforcement project?**

- a. **San Diego PD-** Currently eight systems are in operation and revenue for the project is paying for the program and just breaking even due to an approximate 25% issuance rate on violations.
- b. **Oxnard PD-** This is still an unanswered question. We are working with the courts to differentiate revenue from all red light tickets and automated citations. Our expectation for red light cameras was zero revenue and zero cost (cost neutral). I think we have a positive cash flow, but that has yet to be determined.

- c. **Fremont PD-** Our revenue has had a significant increase since the program started. In the first two years we did not meet our revenue projections, and this was because we turned on our cameras one at a time. Had they gone in all at once, this would not have been the case. Over the past two+ years we have had consistent counts and the revenue continues to come in.
- d. **Capitola PD-** We have not met the revenue projections due to a very slow responses by our courts. However, the courts have now secured a contract with a collections agency which will collect fines on behalf of all of the cities in the county. ATS offers a great database and noticing system, if jurisdictions are willing to issue citations for straight red light violations and forego enhancements. If not, the courts will need to bill violators with base fines and enhancements added.
- e. **Bakersfield PD-** No. We have to look at it as a traffic safety concern as opposed to a revenue generator. That may be in part due to the local courts not adhering to the recommended fine schedule.
- f. **Long Beach PD-** We have never reached our revenue goal.
- g. **Cathedral City PD-** We are currently processing more than enough citations to cover the costs of operating the system, however, we still haven't been able to accurately assess our revenues. ATS and the Court are currently working on a way of tracking all the citations and revenues generated from them.
- h. **Pasadena PD-** Unknown, handled by the Department of Transportation.
- i. **Beverly Hills PD-** Our finance department insists that revenues from our current program barely cover the monthly costs to the vendor.
- j. **Emeryville PD-** I believe the revenue projections have been met, but there is a lag time between paying the vendor and you actually receiving the fine money from the court.
- k. **Davis PD-** The revenue has not really panned out to date. We have been up and running for two and a half months at two intersections and for about three weeks at two different intersections.

**16. Have your revenues significantly increased because of the program?**

- a. **San Diego PD-** Seven more intersections will be added this year with advanced technology, which should increase the efficiency. Hopefully the increased revenue will go back into the program and replace old equipment.
- b. **Roseville PD-** Revenues have not increased.
- c. **Bakersfield PD-** No.
- d. **Long Beach PD-** The revenue has not increased significantly over the life of the program.
- e. **Cathedral City PD-** We are still waiting on this particular issue.
- f. **Pasadena PD-** Unknown.

**17. Did you have any issues with the Courts when you implemented your program?**

- a. **San Diego PD-** Yes, procedures had to be put in place to handle evidence packages for each case going to court. Additionally, those packages had to be

retained for retrials. Also, the City Attorney's Office needed an extra staff person to issue subpoenas.

- b. **Oxnard PD**- We've had our program since 1997. Whatever issues we had originally are long-forgotten. The only issue now is splitting revenue lines between Redflex and conventional red light cites.
- c. **Roseville PD**- The biggest issue came from working with the IT people at the courts when the program started. We had to constantly meet and beg them to get their end up and running. It took a good year and a half to iron out the wrinkles with the courts. It may behoove you to see if any other agencies in your areas already use a particular vendor and if the court is already set up to work with that vendor.
- d. **Fremont PD**- No, we made sure to include them in every step of the process. Currently, the court's only issue is that they can't keep up with the number of citations being issued by our traffic unit.
- e. **Bakersfield PD**- Other than the fine situation the Courts have been very supportive.
- f. **Capitola PD**- The Santa Cruz County Superior Court has been very slow to collect fines on our behalf.
- g. **Long Beach PD**- There has been no major issue with the courts. We have always kept them well informed on the program.
- h. **Cathedral City PD**- The Courts have seemed to be receptive, however we have an archaic computer system in our particular Court, so it has made the tracking of the citations and revenues a problem. The firm and the Court are working to resolve this issue.
- i. **Pasadena PD**- Initially the courts found almost all defendants guilty. In 2005, we had a new Bench Officer assigned to hear the cases and we were losing over half of our cases. It was determined that the Bench Officer was uneducated on the accuracy and operations of the system. We educated the Bench Officer about the program and we have seen a significant increase of guilty findings since.
- j. **Beverly Hills PD**- The court now requires the vendor to access DMV records for inclusion on the cite.
- k. **Emeryville PD**- We included the court commissioners in our preliminary studies and asked what they needed. We have had very few problems as a result.
- l. **Davis PD**- Our Traffic Commissioner loves the idea.
- m. **El Cajon PD**- No, very complimentary. No complaints about increased paper flow to court records.

**18. Has the software/photo equipment and related technology work as promised?**

- a. **San Diego PD**- The newer multi-cams and digital is the way to go. The old wet film and single cameras are not worth the investment or time or money. The multi-cams are the only cameras worth installing in large intersections.
- b. **Oxnard PD**- Redflex is very responsive to our needs and whatever on-site system maintenance is required. Their on-line, web-based interface is top-notch. The 15 seconds of video playback is a great tool for showing drivers how they violated the signal.

- c. **Roseville PD-** The technology still does not work as promised. Our prosecutable cases are about 25-30%. In Nestor's defense they got stuck with Transol's hardware and are currently in the process of upgrading all hardware.
- d. **Fremont PD-** For the most part yes. We now have old equipment and we need it to be upgraded and replaced, but it does all still work. The software has been upgraded and the upgrades have been very helpful to us.
- e. **Bakersfield PD-** The technology is incredible and very reliable. We have no complaints at all in this area.
- f. **Capitola PD-** ATC cameras, software, service and overall system is great. Our weak link is the courts.
- g. **Long Beach PD-** The software and equipment have worked as promised. Nestor has kept up to date with installing the new technology as it comes out.
- h. **Cathedral City PD-** Yes. Our only problem has been the delay from DMV and CLETS for allowing access for driver, vehicle and R/O information to complete the citations by the firm. Currently, our traffic officers complete this work since they have access to those systems.
- i. **Pasadena PD-** Over the past three years using their product, I am satisfied with the equipment and software. Nestor has made numerous improvements of their software and equipment on a regular basis and they continue to do so.
- j. **Beverly Hills PD-** All software and equipment works as promised.
- k. **Emeryville PD-** The cameras and technology has worked as promised.
- l. **Davis PD-** SO far, everything Nestor told us has come to pass. The technology is great.
- m. **El Cajon PD-** All equipment has worked as promised.