

Automated Red Light Camera System

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, nearly 2 million crashes annually occur in intersections. In 2006, red-light running resulted in almost 900 fatalities and 144,000 injuries.

Red-light running is a problem. It is believed that an automated red-light camera program will reduce the number of red-light collisions and injuries associated with these crashes. The purpose of this program is to increase traffic safety in the City of Covina. The goal of the program is to reduce red-light running violations, crashes, and injuries without impacting city funds.

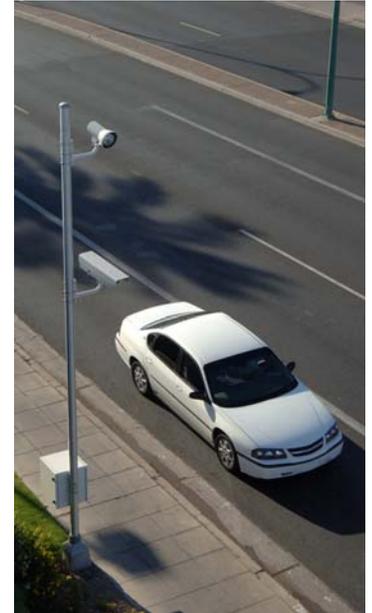
What is a red-light running violation?

A red-light running violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red. Motorists already in the intersection when the signal changes to red, waiting to turn for example, are not considered red-light violators.

Where are the red-light cameras located?

The intersections with camera installations are listed below. Each intersection is marked clearly with signs.

- NB Azusa Avenue at Cypress Street
- NB Barranca Avenue at Rowland Street
- EB Rowland Street at Barranca Avenue
- WB Rowland Street at Barranca Avenue
- NB Grand Avenue at Badillo Street
- SB Grand Avenue at Badillo Street
- EB Badillo Street at Grand Avenue



Another red-light camera, located at the corner of Hollenbeck Avenue and Cypress Street, is not within the City of Covina jurisdiction. That location is coordinated by the County of Los Angeles.

How does the red-light camera work?

- The system activates when motion is detected just prior to the stop bar AFTER the traffic signal has turned red. The cameras capture two images of an alleged violation, taken from the rear of the vehicle.
- The first image shows the vehicle at the white stop bar and the illuminated red light.
- The second image shows the violator in the middle of the intersection with the red light illuminated.
- The license plate image is a close-up from one of the images captured.
- Data, including the time, date, and duration of the yellow and red lights, also is recorded.
- Cameras also record a 12-second digital video of the violation, including six seconds prior to and six seconds after running the red light.

Why does the camera flash when no one actually runs the red light?

The red-light camera system is designed to take two rear photographs of a vehicle that may be committing a violation. The first rear image captures the vehicle prior to entering the intersection with the traffic signal red, and the second image shows the vehicle continuing through the intersection during the red signal phase.

On occasion, a vehicle approaching an intersection with a red light may come to a stop before entering the intersection yet trigger the red-light camera system, causing the flash to discharge. In addition, a vehicle approaching the intersection and making a right turn may not come to a complete stop but only slow before continuing to turn, triggering the red-light camera system and causing the flash to discharge.

The Covina Police Department reviews each violation event captured by the red-light camera system and makes the final decision to issue a citation. All flash incidents do not equate to a citation; however, the imaging results in 80%+ accuracy in identifying excessive speed approaches.

Installed in 2007, Covina's red-light camera system addresses safety issues at three intersections. The Covina Police Department continues to monitor intersections and improve the effectiveness of the photo enforcement program.

Red-light Running Facts



RED-LIGHT RUNNING IS A DANGEROUS AND COSTLY PROBLEM.

- Red-light running is the leading cause of urban crashes according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.
- In 2006, 144,000 injuries and nearly 900 fatalities in the U.S. were attributed to red-light running. There were more than 1.8 million accidents at intersections.

A CRASH CAUSED BY A DRIVER WHO RUNS A RED LIGHT IS MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

- Deaths caused by red-light running are increasing at more than three times the rate of increase for all other fatal crashes.
- More people are injured in crashes involving red-light running than in any other crash type.
- Reduction in red-light running through a comprehensive red-light camera program will promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of Covina's citizens.

MOST PEOPLE RUN RED LIGHTS BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A HURRY, WHEN IN FACT THEY ONLY SAVE SECONDS.

- Almost all drivers (96%) fear being struck by a red-light runner.
- A majority of Americans (56%) admit to running red lights.
- Red-light runners can be anyone who drives.
- One in three Americans knows someone who has been injured or killed in a red-light running crash.
- Red-light running is often a result of aggressive driving and is completely preventable.

Sources: "Stop Red Light Running," Federal Highway Administration Safety Website: safety.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/srlr.htm.2002.

R. A. Retting and A.F. Williams, "Characteristics of Red Light Violators: Results of a Field Investigation," Journal of Safety Research (1996): 27.1, 9-15.