

DC Government – Metropolitan Police Department

Photo Radar Results

Now in its sixth year, the District of Columbia's Photo Radar Speeding Reduction Program continues to show impressive results in reducing the number of aggressive speeders on DC's roads and highways. Since the program began in the summer of 2001, photo radar has achieved the following results:

- For the second time in the past three months, "aggressive speeding" has reached a new record low rate on roadways monitored by photo radar cameras. During August 2006, just 1.7 percent of all vehicles traveling through photo radar enforcement zones were found to be speeding aggressively--that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. The previous record low rate was 1.9 percent in June 2006.
- The aggressive speeding rate for the month of August has declined sharply over the past five years—from 25.5 percent in August 2001 (the first full month of ticketing under photo radar), to just over 9 percent in August 2002, 7 percent in August 2003, 4.2 percent in August 2004, and 3 percent in August 2005, before falling to 1.7 percent last month.
- Whereas almost 1 in 3 motorists were found to be speeding aggressively at the beginning of the photo radar program, the number plummeted to fewer than 1 in 58 motorists speeding aggressively during August 2006.
- During August 2006, nearly 2.4 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras, but only about 41,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. In August 2001, by contrast, there were about the same number of potential violations (41,684), even though the number of vehicles monitored by photo radar that month was just one-thirteenth of last month's total (163,360).
- Average speeds of all vehicles traveling on DC roadways continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began in July 2001.
- On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 27.3 mph in August 2006—down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. In 50-mph zones, the average motorist was traveling below the speed limit (45.6 mph) during August 2006; that compares with an average speed of nearly 8 mph above the speed limit (57.7 mph) in July 2001.
- Since August 2001, just over 2 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and nearly 1.54 million have been paid, resulting in fines of more than \$116 million. This level of consistent speeding enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

Photo Radar Summary Results

Changes in Aggressive Speeding (Percentage of Vehicles Exceeding Speeding Threshold)				
	Total Vehicles Monitored	Total (Potential) Violations	Total Non-Violations	% Vehicles Speeding Aggressively
August 2006	2,384,405	41,075	2,343,330	1.7%
July 2006	2,405,335	59,001	2,346,334	2.4%
August 2005	733,743	22,324	711,419	3.0%
August 2004	918,702	38,450	880,252	4.2%
August 2003	797,084	56,717	740,367	7.1%
August 2002	621,418	57,997	563,421	9.3%
August 2001	163,360	41,684	121,676	25.5%
July 2001*	49,900	15,417	34,483	30.9% 30.9%

**Represents the period from July 2 through August 4, 2001. Warning notices only were issued during this time period.*