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This issue focuses on the Campaign's recent presentation before the Maryland House of Delegates, new research findings from Canada and a review of all pending state red light running and speed limit photo enforcement legislation.

Winnipeg Experience Helps Answer Maryland Lawmakers' Questions

On Nov. 9th, Jon Butcher, the Canadian Program Manager for the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running, was invited to give a presentation to a working session of the Maryland House Environmental Matters Committee on legislation to create a pilot speed safety camera program in two rapidly-growing Maryland counties.

The Annapolis meeting gave Butcher and other traffic safety experts the opportunity to share their experiences with speed safety cameras. Legislation authored by Del. Bill Bronrott (D-Montgomery), who is also a member of the Committee, would establish mobile photo radar units to track and fine cars traveling at excessive speeds in school zones and stretches of highway with histories of high-speed crashes.

Butcher told the Committee members that traffic safety is a big concern in most communities, but when many more traffic fatalities are occurring in Maryland than homicides, that is evidence of a serious problem.

"I come from a city of 660,000 people in central Canada. In 2001, I was a platoon supervisor in our traffic division. As most police officers will tell you, traffic enforcement is more art than science and is not something that can be either done effectively or safely just anywhere."

Butcher said Winnipeg, like many cities in over 75 countries around the world, took a hard look at photo enforcement as a means of presenting a more effective speed deterrent. This did not mean replacing traffic police with technology, but augmenting their presence with a cost effective means of increasing that deterrent.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Photo enforcement allows police officers to get back into traffic where mobility is their best asset.

In Winnipeg, speed cameras are only used in playgrounds, school zones and construction sites

Butcher provided the following statistics: **1.9 percent of vehicles met or exceeded the speed camera "excessive speed" threshold. That percentage has been reduced in one year to 1.2 percent.**

Approximately 16,500 vehicles were traveling 15 mph or more over the speed limit.

In the first year, 22 percent of vehicles received more than one ticket. This year that ratio has dropped to 13 percent.

"There is no doubt in my mind that speed safety cameras are saving lives every day in Winnipeg," Butcher said.



A motorist flies past a Winnipeg speed camera at 84 mph in a 40 mph zone. Since this driver was cited in May, 2003, he has not received any additional speeding tickets. A copy of this and other speed camera photos were provided to members of the committee.

Capt. Patrick Burke of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department and Dr. Richard Retting of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety also gave presentations in support of the legislation.

Photo Spray Shown Up In Media Test

The recent growth in products that claim they can help motorists evade red light and photo radar cameras have received a lot of media attention.

"SPAM" COMPLAINTS

The mass distribution of unsolicited commercial e-mail promoting "photo blocker" sprays is continuing.

The practice is also now illegal.

If you receive an unwanted commercial e-mail, respond to the sender to indicate that you do not want to receive further e-mail from that sender.

If you then receive subsequent commercial messages from that sender more than 10 days after your request would have been received, report the sender to the FTC at www.ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).

Recently, KATU, the ABC affiliate in Portland, Oregon, decided to do their own test of one of the most widely promoted "photo sprays" to see if it lived up to the advertising.

KATU reporter Bob Heye created an admittedly unscientific test using a digital camera and flash to mimic the effect of a red light or speed camera.

The field test of the license plate that had been coated with the photo spray showed absolutely no decline in legibility.

Police officials pointed out that any driver who is caught using a photo spray or license plate cover would also receive a "B" level traffic violation with an additional \$330 fine.

Survivor Activist Reaches Out To Floridians Shocked By Tragedy

As reported by several Florida news outlets, on Oct. 27, a 22-year old driver with a history of speeding ran a red light in the Orlando area while talking on her cell phone. Her SUV struck Victoria Valez, 2, and her sister Anjelica, 5, who were in a crosswalk with their mother, dragging them 150 feet before stopping. Both girls died.

Ann Sweet, the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running's Survivor Spokesperson has sent the following letter to every Campaign member in Florida to help energize support for statewide enabling legislation for red light cameras.

Dear Campaign Supporter:

I have read about the recent tragedy in Orlando where two young girls were struck and killed by a red light runner as they so innocently crossed a street with their mother. In one of life's cruel ironies, the crash in Orlando occurred on the seventh anniversary of my own daughter Shawnee's death, who was struck and killed by a red light runner near our Indiana home.

I wish I could say that the death of my daughter and those of the two little girls were unusual, but that isn't the case. In just the few days since the Orlando crash, red light running crashes have killed or seriously injured **eight** other Floridians. Families in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Nevada, Texas and Virginia have experienced the same heartbreak.

I've become a vocal advocate of red light cameras as a tool to provide the most effective, reliable and consistent enforcement. Red light cameras convince drivers that red really does mean stop, and they'll get caught and fined if they don't — every time.

Several attempts have been made to pass legislation to allow Florida communities to establish their own photo enforcement programs. For this to happen, we need **people like you** who are tired of the carnage to **write your state legislators and Governor Bush**. Let them know that photo enforcement should be an important part of a solution in making Florida's roadways safer.

Sincerely,
Ann Sweet
National Survivor Spokesperson

Regina Police Report Camera Safety Results

Reprinted from The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation website

Regina, Saskatchewan's red-light camera system is producing the desired safety results, according to city police.

A new study of the system shows a reduction in the number of collisions at four intersections where the cameras are set up.

Officials from the City of Regina's engineering department compared statistics for 26 months before the system was installed, and 26 months after.

The results showed that the most serious traffic accidents, right-angle crashes, are down by 40 percent.

"It's very encouraging to see that reduction," says Elizabeth Popowich, spokesperson for the Regina Police Service.

"I think we also want to see more of a reduction, and we want to change driver behavior, and ultimately make the roadway safer for everyone who is out there," Popowich said.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS IN ACTION

California

Santa Clarita Cameras Producing Positive Results

A review of the initial two-month operation of red light cameras in Santa Clarita, CA by the *Daily News* has found that there have been no accidents caused by red light running at any of the five intersections equipped with red light cameras.

Additionally, not one of the 2,500 or so drivers caught on camera running red lights has won his or her case in court, said Detective Robert Smoldt of the Santa Clarita Valley sheriff's station's traffic bureau. Each has been fined \$341.

Smoldt also said deputies have noticed better traffic flow approaching the intersections.

New Mexico

Albuquerque Begins Ticketing Violators With Cameras

Starting this month, if you run a red light in Albuquerque you might be caught on camera.

According to a recent article in the *Albuquerque Tribune*, the city has installed cameras at two of Albuquerque's busiest intersections: Montgomery and San Mateo Boulevards Northeast and Montgomery and Eubank Boulevards Northeast.

The addition of these cameras in Albuquerque means that red light cameras are now enforcing traffic laws in over 110 communities in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

In October, red light runners received a warning in the mail. Now they face stiff fines. An ordinance being drafted by the City Council staff would impose these penalties:

- First offense, \$100 fine.
- Second offense, \$250 fine and the car is booted for 30 days.
- Third offense, \$500 fine and the car is booted for 90 days.

Albuquerque Police Chief Gilbert Gallegos told the paper. "If you run the red light, you'll get a photograph showing your license plate and where your car was in comparison to the intersection, and

Get Your Free Screensaver

Tired of that same old screensaver on your computer?

Try the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running screensaver featuring the Empire State Building lit up like a traffic signal!

To obtain the screensaver, please contact cgalm@blakey-agnew.com.

Attention Campaign Members!

Do you have friends, family or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our newsletter? Do you regularly forward the newsletter on to others who are interested? Help us increase awareness of the dangers of red light running by asking anyone who is interested to e-mail us at info@stopredlightrunning.com and be added to our mailing list.

Legislative Update -- Fall 2004

If there is legislation pending in your state that is not listed here, please contact the Campaign at (202)828-9100 or info@stopredlightrunning.com.

RED LIGHT RUNNING: SAFETY CAMERAS

Minnesota: The Minneapolis City Council's Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee recently approved a request for proposals (RFP) to purchase red light cameras, computers and citation processing systems to run the program. The city plans to select a vendor by Jan. 19 and begin installation by April 25. Police would start a 30-day test on May 25, offering a grace period during which violators would receive a warning, not a fine.

Ohio: According to a recent report in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken has dropped his earlier objections to red light cameras and has included red light cameras as an item in his budget recently submitted to the City Council. The Mayor said he has deferred to the wishes of the Chief of Police who has backed using cameras to reduce red light running in the city.

Pennsylvania: H.B. 2357 (Horsey) would permit the installation of speed cameras in all 15 mph school zones in first-class cities. The bill was amended by the House to strike any mention of photo enforcement, and referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation. H.B. 1315 (Godshall) would authorize a police officer to give a citation to a bus driver caught violating traffic laws via a camera located on the bus. This bill was passed in the House and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

Virginia: S.B. 92 (Devolites) it authorizes statewide use of red light cameras and addresses several opponents' concerns with photo enforcement. The bill was withdrawn at a hearing of the House Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety on Nov.15th. Rep. Devolites said that she intends to introduce similar legislation in 2005.

H.B. 19 (McQuigg) would expand photo-monitoring systems for traffic signal enforcement to all of Virginia, assuming vehicle owner liability. The bill was withdrawn at a hearing of the House Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety on Nov.15th

H.B. 370 (Rust) which would repeal the July 1, 2005, "sunset" on photo red programs in Virginia, was withdrawn at a hearing of the House Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety on Nov.15th

Ontario, Canada: The Ontario government says it has plugged a loophole that resulted in photos of accused red-light runners being tossed out of court. The revisions by the Ministry of Transportation came after a ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeals in October that deemed photographs of red-light runners inadmissible as evidence. Judges ruled the photographs did not comply with Traffic Act requirements that the date, time and location of the alleged crime have to be visible in the picture. That problem has been corrected.

SPEEDING SAFETY CAMERAS

Maryland: S.B. 1388 (Bronrott) would permit the placement of speed monitoring systems on specified highways in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, requiring local police departments to cite the owner of the vehicle. The legislation was referred to the Environmental Matters Committee without a final vote until next year. There was a working group session on the legislation on Nov. 9th. The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running presented information on behalf of the legislation.