

Red-Light Cameras

COUNCIL ACTION PREVIEW

JUNE 08, 2026

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Red-Light Camera Policy Referral

Background

◀ **March 25th, 2026:** policy referral by Mayor Lyles

◀ **April 6th, 2026:** Initial Safety Committee discussion

◀ **May 11th, 2026:** Safety Committee approves two policy recommendations for Council consideration

- Establish a pilot red-light camera enforcement program for a period of 1 year using existing statutory approvals.
- Coordinate with the Intergovernmental Relations team to explore a local act authorizing an interlocal program with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

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Tonight's Discussion

1. Establish a 1-year red-light camera enforcement pilot program
2. Advance a legislative priority for a local act in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, in accordance with the Council adopted 2026 State Legislative Agenda

Enabling Legislation and Ordinances

◀ North Carolina Constitution

- Article IX Education - Sec. 7 County school fund

◀ North Carolina General Statutes

- § 160A-300.1. Use of traffic control photographic systems.
- Session Law 2001-286 Senate Bill 243
 - *Local Act for municipalities in Wake County and the City of Concord – defined clear proceeds.*
- Session Law 2007-341
 - *Local Act for several municipalities (CLT included) – Increased allowable fines to \$75*
- Session Law 2014-84 House Bill 1151
 - *Local act for Fayetteville allowed interlocal agreement between the City and Cumberland County Schoolboard*
- Session Law 2016-64 House Bill 1126
 - *Local Act for Greenville – Increased fines and allowance for an interlocal agreement between the City and Pitt County Schoolboard*

◀ City of Charlotte Ordinances

- Chapter 14, Article IV. – Operation of Vehicles Division 3. – Traffic Control Photographic Systems

Statutory Program Requirements

- ◀ **Camera equipped locations must have advance warning signs.**
- ◀ **Citations are issued to the registered owner of the vehicle**
 - Provisions must be made for borrowed or stolen vehicles
- ◀ **Photographic Citations are non-criminal violations.**
 - No points are assigned to the driver
 - No insurance points can be assigned to the driver
- ◀ **Non-judicial administrative hearing process must be established for appeals**

Best Practice Red-Light Program Elements

- ◀ **Align with Vision Zero Goals using a data-driven approach**
- ◀ **Prioritize High Injury Network Intersections**
- ◀ **Use Crash Type, Frequency, and Severity to Guide Deployment**
 - Fatal or Serious Injury Angle and/or Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions
 - High Percentage of Angle and Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions
 - Elevated Number of Overall Collisions
- ◀ **Maintain Data Transparency and Report Frequently**

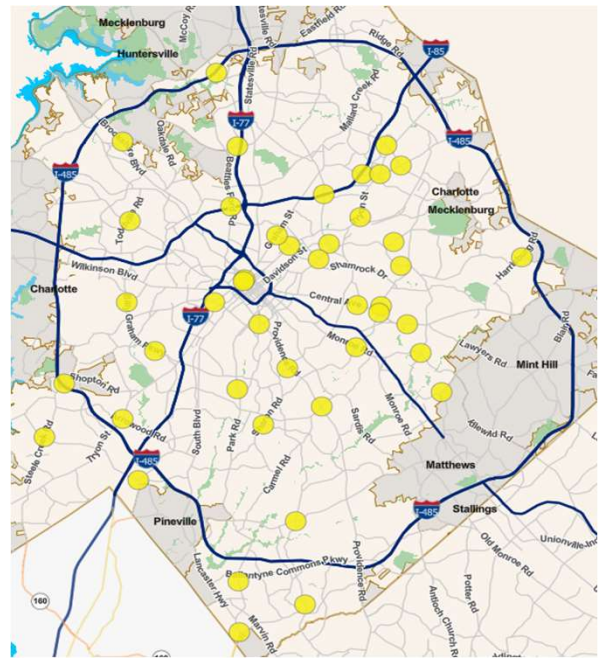
Potential Sites

◀ High Injury Network Intersections

◀ 39 Intersections with Fatal Collisions

◀ Refinements based on Additional Criteria

- Higher Percentage of Angle & Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Collisions
- Higher Number of Overall Collisions



Potential Pilot Locations

◀ Example Candidates

◀ 1,841 Collisions total over five years

- 26 Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions
- 220 Angle and Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions
- 24 Pedestrian and/or Bicycle Collisions



Engineering Countermeasures

Low-Cost (<\$10K) Improvements

- ◀ LED Signal Indications
- ◀ Signal Timing Adjustments
- ◀ Reflective Back-Plates

High-Cost (>\$500K) Improvements

- ◀ Dedicated Turn Lanes
- ◀ Intersection Re-construction
- ◀ Sight Distance Improvements

Financial Analysis for 10 Intersections

Total Estimated Expenses

- ◀ Approximately \$5,000 per month per intersection
- ◀ Annual program cost \$600,000

Estimated Revenues

- ◀ \$75 Citation
- ◀ Assume 500 citations per month per location
- ◀ \$4.5M annual revenue
 - \$4.05M CMS Share
 - \$450K City Share

City of Charlotte Estimated Program Expense

- ◀ \$150K

Estimated Safety Benefit for 10 Intersections

◀ Annual Crashes without Treatment

- 1,666 Total Collisions
- 1.6 Serious Injury & Fatal Collisions
- 44 Angle and Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions

◀ Estimated Annual Crashes With Red Light Cameras

- 1,296 Total Collisions
- <1 Serious Injury & Fatal Collisions
- 27 Angle and Left Turn Different Roadway Collisions

Program Funding

◀ Pilot – City Funded Program using existing statutory approvals

- City pays all program expenses upfront.
- City of Charlotte provides 90% (\$67.50) of each citation to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- City of Charlotte retains 10% (\$7.50) of each citation for program expenses

◀ Future – Interlocal Program requiring General Assembly action

- City provides all citation revenue to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- City invoices Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools actual program costs and is reimbursed.

Next Steps

◀ Establish Pilot Program

- Staff will develop an RFP to select a program vendor.
- Council will be asked approve the contract at a future business meeting.
- Goal is to have the pilot program begin by early 2027

◀ Ordinance Amendment to increase fines

- Staff will submit an ordinance amendment at a future business meeting increasing the fine to \$75.00