

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT IN SCHOOL ZONES

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INTRODUCTION

- House Bill (HB) 657 was approved by the Florida Legislature and signed by Governor Ron DeSantis on May 31st, 2023. Under this law the use of cameras is authorized to enforce speeding violations in school zones throughout the school day.
- As defined by Section 316.003(83), Florida Statutes (F.S.), an Speed Detection System is a portable or fixed automated system used to detect a motor vehicle's speed using radar or LiDAR and to capture a photograph or video of the rear of a motor vehicle that exceeds the speed limit in force at the time of the violation.

CURRENT STATISTICS

- In 2018, Florida Ranked 1st in the country as having the most dangerous school zones
- The fatality rate of someone hit by a car at 20 mph is 10%, compared to 40% at 40 mph and 90% at 58 mph
- Between 04/03/2020 and 04/03/2025 the Venice High and Epiphany school zones have experienced a total of 40 traffic crashes, including 4 that resulted in injuries or possible injuries

SPEED STUDY

- A two-day traffic study was conducted in November 2024

School	Street	Violations 10+MPH
Venice High School	Bahama St	270
Epiphany Cathedral School	Harbor Dr	235

SPEED STUDY

School	Venice High School
Study Date	11-20-24 & 11-21-24
Speed Limit	15 MPH
Violation Trigger Limit	26 MPH
Vehicle Count	938
Direction	Northbound
Violations Detected	270

SPEED STUDY

School	Epiphany Cathedral
Study Date	11-20-24 & 11-21-24
Speed Limit	15 MPH
Violation Trigger Limit	26 MPH
Vehicle Count	1812
Direction	Northbound and Southbound
Violations Detected	235

FACTS

- **Time of enforcement** – The system will only operate on school days, beginning 30 minutes before and ending 30 minutes after school
- **Not a gotcha program** – The city must spend at least 30 days educating the public about the new enforcement measures and only issue warnings before they are allowed to levy fines
- **Officer verified** – No citations will be issued until a VPD employee first reviews and confirms the violation
- **Egregious speeders** – Only violators going at least 10mph+ will be cited. No points will be assessed, and insurance companies aren't notified

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Breakdown of \$100 Civil Penalty

- **\$39** – City of Venice
- **\$21** – Speed Detection System Vendor *
- **\$20** – State General Fund
- **\$12** – Local School Districts
- **\$3** – FDLE Criminal Standards & Training Fund
- **\$5** – School Crossing Guard Recruitment & Retention

*This may vary based on vendor agreement

CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The City must develop an ordinance authorizing the placement of the cameras
- The City must notify the public of the cameras 30 days prior to implementation (Most Vendors handle this)
- Staff member(s) will need to be assigned or hired to review the violation before a citation is issued
- The allocation and use of citation revenue will need to be discussed.

VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Install and maintain the equipment (No cost to City)
- Site selection and analysis
- Violation processing

BENEFITS

- **Improves safety in school zones**
- **Eliminate cost for the city** – The services are completely violator funded
- **Provides revenue for public safety initiatives** - The city retains \$39 per citation
- **Force multiplier** – Automated cameras free up officer resources, allowing law enforcement to prioritize their time where needed most
- **License Plate Reader** – Aids criminal investigations by increasing the number of license plate readers in the city

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Florida Police Chiefs Association
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- Sarasota County School Board

QUESTIONS?

