

Frequently Asked Questions

Which Baton Rouge intersections will be monitored by red light safety cameras?

The first wave of red light cameras will be located at five intersections:

1. Sherwood Forest Blvd @ Coursey Blvd
2. Essen Lane @ I-10 Ramps
3. College Dr @ I-10 EB Ramps
4. Airline Hwy @ Old Hammond Hwy
5. LA 19 @ Blount Rd

Please see our website (www.brgov.com/redlight) for a detailed map. Future red light camera locations will be posted as they are determined.



Wouldn't it be more effective for the light to stay yellow longer?

Yellow light timing is based on the physical characteristics of the intersection and driver behavior. A driver needs sufficient time to see a yellow light and safely determine whether to stop or proceed through the intersection. Increasing yellow light times beyond what is reasonable can actually increase the number of red light runners because of the longer delay that drivers experience at intersections.



What recourse do I have if I believe the citation was issued erroneously?

If you receive a notice of violation, you may request a hearing. If you receive the notice of violation erroneously or if you have a legal justification for going through the red light (i.e., if an emergency vehicle forces you through the light), then you are not liable for the civil penalty.



How much is the fine? What about my driving record?

Violators will be assessed a \$117 civil penalty. Because the violation is a civil matter, it is treated much like a parking ticket. It does not count as a moving violation and will not be reported to the insurance company.



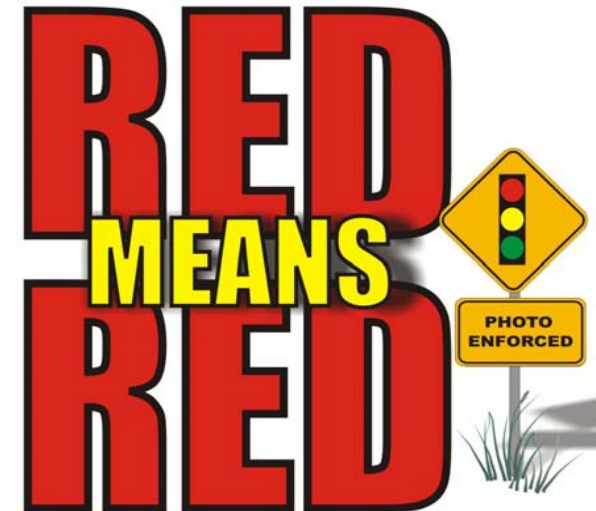
For more information about the City of Baton Rouge's Red Light Safety Program, visit the website at:

<http://brgov.com/redlight>

or contact:

Toll Free: 1-866-790-4111

The City of Baton Rouge Parish of East Baton Rouge



Red Light Safety Program

Why install red light cameras?

The City of Baton Rouge is committed to the safety of the community and dedicated to reducing preventable collisions at signalized intersections. Every year, needless crashes occur in Baton Rouge due to motorists that run red lights. The Stop Red Light Running Program reports that red light camera safety programs in other cities have resulted in crash reductions between 40 and 90 percent.



The time saved by running a red light – only seconds.

Red light running is the leading cause of urban crashes according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In 2006, almost 900 people were killed and an estimated 144,000 were injured in crashes that involved red light running.



Police can't be at an intersection 24/7.

The City of Baton Rouge simply does not have enough officers to set up conventional police enforcement at each intersection and enforce red light running violations. In addition to manpower limitations, traditional enforcement endangers the lives of officers as well as innocent motorists and pedestrians due to the fact that the officer typically follows a violating vehicle through the red light to stop it.



We want to change driver behavior.

The ultimate goal of the red light camera safety program is to change driver behavior. Every driver makes a decision when approaching an intersection where the light has just turned red. Impatient drivers often choose to continue through the intersection, ignoring the law and putting lives at risk. A 2005 review of red light camera studies around the world concluded that cameras reduce red light violations by 40–50 percent and reduce injury crashes by 25–30 percent.

How The System Works

Traffic signals are timed by the city's traffic engineers through careful study of each individual intersection using national recognized procedures.

Red light safety cameras monitor intersection approaches through advanced detection and imaging technology.

The safety cameras **only photograph a vehicle if it enters the intersection after the light has turned red**. A second photograph is taken as the vehicle progresses through the intersection.

Vehicles that enter an intersection on a yellow light are not photographed even if they are still in the intersection when the light changes to red. The technology is designed to record motorists as they intentionally enter an intersection after the signal turns red.

The camera photographs the vehicle from the rear – not the driver. The camera records the date, time, lane number, location and speed of the vehicle.

This information is included on the notice of violation and is then evaluated by sworn members of the Police Department to verify that a violation has occurred and to determine whether a notice of violation should be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.



Red Light Cameras Enhance Safety

Red light violations contribute substantially to the million intersection collisions that occur nationally each year. When red light safety cameras are operational, deaths and injuries related to red light running are significantly reduced.

In El Paso, TX crashes at red light camera intersections have dropped 1.6 percent during the first four months of operation. During that time, citywide crashes increased 7.6 percent.

Columbus, Ohio reported in 2006 that intersection crashes dropped 47 percent and red light running violations dropped by nearly 63 percent at intersections equipped with red light cameras.

"Research suggests that *intentional* red-light runners, who account for a significant percentage of red-light runners, are most affected by enforcement countermeasures." -- *FHWA Intersection Safety Issue Briefs, 2004*

