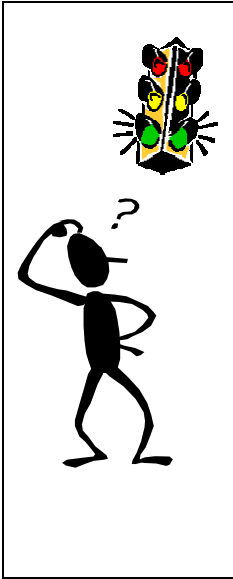


Providence Red-Light Camera Program

Frequently Asked Questions



What is red light running?

A violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection, crossing the stop line, after the traffic signal is displaying a red light. Motorists already in an intersection when the signal changes to red, while waiting to turn for example, aren't red-light runners.

What are red light cameras?

A camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors placed in or over the pavement at the stop line. The system monitors the traffic signal. A vehicle passing through the sensors above a pre-set minimum speed and following a specified interval after the signal is displaying a red light triggers the camera. The camera system records two pictures and a short video, the date, time of day, elapsed time since the beginning of the red signal, speed of the vehicle, and other pertinent information at the time of the violation. An electronic flash produces clear images of vehicles under all light and weather conditions.

Where are red light cameras located?

The cameras are located at intersections where chronic red light running causes a high amount of angle crashes. Warning signs are posted along each street no more than 300 feet from any intersection at which a camera is installed.

Isn't conventional police enforcement enough?

Enforcing traffic laws in Providence by traditional means poses special difficulties for police, who in most cases must follow a violating vehicle through a red light in order to stop it. This can endanger motorists and pedestrians as well as officers, and police can't be everywhere at once. Providence doesn't have the resources to allow police to patrol intersections as often as would be needed to ticket all motorists who run red lights. Red Light Cameras allow police to focus on other enforcement needs.

Do the cameras record/photograph every vehicle passing through an intersection?

NO! The cameras are set so only those vehicles that enter the intersection after a red signal is being displayed are photographed. Vehicles which enter on yellow and find themselves in an intersection when the signal changes to red are not photographed. This technology is intended to photograph vehicles driven by motorists who enter an intersection after the signal has turned red.

What is a violation?

A violation has occurred when a car enters the intersection, crossing the stop line, after the traffic signal has turned red. Two pictures are taken of the vehicle. One is of the rear of the vehicle before it enters the intersection with the traffic signal showing the red light. This will show that the signal was red before the vehicle entered the intersection. The second is when the vehicle is in the intersection with traffic signal showing a red light. This will show that the vehicle continued through the intersection and did not stop just past the stop line. A photo will not be taken if the traffic signal turns red after the vehicle is past the stop line or if the vehicle gets stopped in the middle of the intersection.

Occurrences that are not considered violations:

- Being directed through the intersection by a uniformed officer of emergency worker,
- Moving out of the way of an emergency vehicle, or
- Participating in a funeral procession.

What do the red light cameras record/photograph?

Cameras take two photographs and a short video clip:

- 1) One of the rear of the vehicle before it enters the intersection with the traffic signal showing the red light. This shows officials that the signal was red before the vehicle entered the intersection.
- 2) One with the vehicle in the intersection with the traffic signal showing the red light. This will show officials that the vehicle continued into the intersection and did not stop just past the stop line. The camera also records the date, time, speed of the vehicle, and time elapsed since the beginning of the red signal. A citation, including photographs of the violation, will be sent to the vehicle owner within a few days.
- 3) One few second video clip of the rear of the vehicle is record. This is used to verify there were not extenuating circumstance causing the vehicle to run the traffic signal while was red.

When a violation occurs, who receives the citation?

Citations are mailed to the registered vehicle owner after a City of Providence police officer has reviewed the photographs and video of the violation.

What if the registered owner was not driving the vehicle?

The owner is responsible for returning the CERTIFICATION portion of citation to the address listed with information regarding who was driving the vehicle (name, number, address) within 30 calendar days of the ISSUED date of the citation. If the car had been reported stolen at the time of the violation, then the owner must submit a copy of the filed police report. Instructions for transferring responsibility are printed on the back of each citation.

Will the citation add points to the driver's record?

NO! Citations issued through the program are non-criminal. Neither insurance nor license points are added.

How are citations appealed?

The citation must be returned on or before the 'DUE DATE' listed on the citation. You may also choose to appear in court on the court date listed on the citation and contest.

What is the citation fine?

The fine is \$75 for running a traffic signal as set by RIGL Sec. 31-13-6.

What happens if the citation isn't paid or appealed?

The overdue payment is turned over to a collection agency. The City may opt to request the DMV place a hold on the vehicles registration. If a hold is placed on the registration the vehicle will not be eligible for re-register until the hold is cleared.

Who manages the program?

It is a City of Providence program. In March 2004, the City of Providence partnered with Affiliated Computer Services Government Solutions (ACS). ACS is responsible for the administration of the Automated Traffic Violation Monitoring System (ATVMS), the technology used by the program, including: project management, camera installation and maintenance, violation processing, customer service, adjudication support and payment processing. The City has a Program Manager to oversee the vendor and administration of the contract.