

Automated Traffic Violation Enforcement System (ATVES) FAQs

Why Do We Need Red Light and Speed Monitoring Systems?

Not obeying red light signals and exceeding the posted speed limit are the foremost traffic safety concerns in Baltimore City. Serious injury and even deaths have occurred as a result of running red lights and speeding. By authorizing the use of red-light cameras and speed monitoring cameras, Maryland's Automated Enforcement Laws and the Baltimore City Code, help to protect the safety of our children in school zones and all of our residents and visitors throughout our city as they walk or travel on our streets or highways.

Why Do We Need Commercial Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems?

Baltimore City's streets accommodate a large amount of vehicle traffic at all times. Many of Baltimore's streets are local routes surrounded residential buildings and small businesses, some just feet from the roadway. Baltimore City has restricted some streets from large vehicles for the safety and comfort of the residents as well as to preserve these buildings and the affected roads. Vehicle Height Monitoring System cameras are used to record images of commercial vehicles traveling on a truck restricted (posted) roadway in Baltimore City. The vehicle's height conveys to the monitoring system that the vehicle passing the camera is a truck. This type of automated enforcement assists Baltimore City by providing a non-intrusive enforcement method to curb the use of restricted routes by unauthorized vehicles.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation has developed alternative truck routes and instituted a permit system to assist commercial vehicle operators. For more information, see the Baltimore City Department of Transportation Web site at: www.baltimorecity.gov

How Are Enforcement Locations Chosen?

Baltimore City regularly evaluates traffic accidents, traffic violations, and vehicle volume counts throughout the City. Locations that suffer from a high number of accidents or locations that demonstrate a need for emphasis on traffic control are examined. Pedestrian use, design restrictions, congestion, delays, and access problems, are evaluated for potential changes in roadway design, signal, sign, or marking changes. Input from the community and City agencies are taken into account.

For each location, an assessment is completed to evaluate the potential for automated enforcement and/or other intervention methods that will increase safety at the location (including the area in the vicinity of the site). This evaluation will also consider whether there are any potential disadvantages regarding the use of automated enforcement at the location and will determine if the use of automated enforcement will correct or help mitigate safety concerns.

How Do the Cameras Work?

Red Light Camera Monitoring System – is a stationary camera that uses sensors working in conjunction with a traffic control signal to record images of motor vehicles entering an intersection during a red-light signal phase. Photos and video are taken of the rear of the vehicle with the red signal visible. The red-light enforcement cameras are operational 24-7, every day of the year. Intersection locations with red light camera enforcement are listed on this Web site.

Speed Camera Monitoring System - Speed cameras are either permanently installed (fixed) in a particular location or are portable cameras that can be moved from location to location. Baltimore City's speed cameras use tracking radar that measures the speed of vehicles that pass the camera. Each speed

monitoring system undergoes an in-house daily calibration test and an annual calibration test by an independent testing company. Vehicles measured exceeding the speed limit by at least 12 miles per hour in a signed, school or work zone, will be captured by from the back of the vehicle with tracking radar, photos, and video, that record the vehicles speed. School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems are operational Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM through 8:00 PM, throughout the year. Work Zone Speed Monitoring Systems are operational 24 hours a day, every day throughout the year. Both School Zone and Work Zone speed camera locations are listed on this Web site

Commercial Vehicle Height Monitoring Camera - A Vehicle Height Monitoring System is a portable camera system used to record images of commercial vehicles traveling on a truck restricted (posted) roadway in Baltimore City. The vehicle's height conveys to the monitoring system that the vehicle passing the camera is a truck. When a truck is detected by the camera system, photos and video are taken of the vehicle from the front in order to capture the identification of the cab registration of the vehicle. Vehicle height monitoring systems are operational when the posted (signed) no truck traffic time periods are in effect. Locations with a vehicle height monitoring (truck enforcement camera) are listed on this Web site.

How Much Are the Fines?

Automated enforcement violations include the following civil fines which are due 30 days from the violation notice date:

- Red Light Camera Violation - \$75.00
- Speed Camera Violation - \$40.00
- Commercial Vehicle Height Camera:
 - o First Offense – Warning
 - o Second Offense - \$125.00
 - o Third or Subsequent Offenses - \$250.00 each

Failure to pay the civil penalty, request a review of the violation by the Local Designee (Ombudsman), or to contest liability in a timely manner is an admission of liability which may result in paying additional fees, and or penalties by the Maryland Motor Vehicle administration until all charges are paid in full.

How Do I Contest a Violation?

When you receive the violation notice, there are instructions on the notice regarding how to pay the citation or request a hearing in the District Court. These instructions are listed below for your convenience. You may also request a review of the violation by the Local Designee (Ombudsman).

To pay a violation: www.baltimorecity.gov

To request a review of the violation by a Local Designee (Ombudsman):

Email:

ATVES.Ombudsman@baltimorecity.gov Subject Line: Local Designee (Ombudsman) Review

If you believe your violation was issued due to a technical error, you may request a review of the violation by a Baltimore City Automated Traffic Violation Enforcement System Local Designee (Ombudsman). The Local Designee (Ombudsman) performs violation reviews by request, for anyone receiving an automated traffic violation in Baltimore City.

To schedule the violation for a hearing in District Court:

Mail a request (5) days prior to the "Due Date" shown on the front of this notice to
Baltimore City Parking Fines Section
200 Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

What If I Was Not Driving (Transfer of Liability)?

If you, the registered owner, were not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, in order to prove that you were not the driver, in addition to your testimony at trial, the law requires you to provide a letter that states that the person named in the citation was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation. The letter must be: (1) sworn to or affirmed by you, and (2) mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested. Include in the letter all corroborating evidence such as the name, address and, if possible, the driver's license identification number of the person who was driving. This must be done within 30 days of the violation's mailing date.

Mail a letter to:
Baltimore City Parking Fines Section,
200 Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Note: A Transfer of Liability does not release the vehicle owner for outstanding violation fines and fees. If the operator of the vehicle does not pay the fines, the vehicle owner is still liable for all fines and fees due.

What Happens to My Driver's License and Insurance If I Pay The Violation Or I Am Found Guilty In Court?

Red light, Speed, and Commercial Vehicle Height Camera violations, captured by automated monitoring systems are civil violations. There is no impact on your driver's license, no points are assessed, and there is no insurance impact. The only penalty is the fine. The District Court may also add court costs for those cases in which the violation is sustained. However, failure to pay the civil penalty or to contest liability in a timely manner is an admission of liability and may result in additional fees until the fine is paid in full.

Access to Government Records and Requests for Information

Citizens who wish to obtain records and documents from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation must file a Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) request with the agency. Maryland's Public Information Act grants residents' access to public records while protecting governmental interests and privacy rights of individual citizens. The PIA provides access to most departmental records including written materials, books, photographs, photocopies, films, microfilms, records, tapes, computerized records, maps and drawings created or received by the department in connection with the transaction of public business.

Motorists who receive automated enforcement citations and wish to obtain copies of camera calibration reports should **file an MPIA request by emailing Kathy Dominick at Kathy.Dominick@baltimorecity.gov**