
260 PHOTO ENFORCEMENT ON STATE HIGHWAYS

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §28-1206 requires a city or town desiring to install a photo enforcement system for speed violations on a roadway owned or operated by the State to provide ADOT with sufficient information for ADOT to determine that the photo enforcement system is necessary for public safety. §28-1206 also requires a city or town wanting to renew a permit for an existing speed photo enforcement system on a roadway owned or operated by the State to provide ADOT with information to confirm that the photo enforcement system is necessary for public safety.

260.1 APPLICABILITY

This guidance applies specifically to all photo enforcement systems on state highways that enforce violations of ARS Title 28, Chapter 3, Article 6 (Speed Restrictions).

260.2 AUTHORITY

1. Arizona Revised Statutes Section §28-1206 (effective September 13, 2013)
2. Arizona Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter 3, Article 5 - "Highway Encroachments and Permits"

260.3 REFERENCES

1. Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 28, Chapter 3, Article 21, §28-1201 through §28-1206 (Photo Enforcement Systems)
2. ATRC Arizona Report 550, "The Impact of Red Light Cameras (Automated Enforcement) on Safety in Arizona", August 2005
3. ADOT's Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures for Encroachment Permits

260.4 ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROCESS

All permit applications and renewals for photo enforcement of speed regulations on state highways shall be submitted by a county, regional, tribal, or municipal governmental entity or agency. For purposes of the permit, the governmental entity or agency shall be the owner and operator of the photo enforcement system and all associated equipment.

New Permits:

The Local Agency shall:

1. Submit an encroachment permit application for the proposed photo enforcement system to the appropriate District Office. **This permit application shall conform to the most recent edition of ADOT's policies and guidelines for Encroachment Permits. At a minimum, the application package shall include:**

- a. A traffic engineering study, signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in Arizona, for the area covered by the proposed enforcement system. **This study shall conform to the guidelines set forth in TGP 222. This report shall also contain:**
 - i. Current information on average annual daily traffic (AADT) by direction where the system will be installed.
 - ii. The percentage of vehicles per day in excess of the current posted or statutory speed at that location
 - b. A list of all reported crashes occurring in the area covered by the proposed enforcement system, encompassing a minimum period of three years of available report data. **This list shall include sufficient information to allow reports for each crash to be obtained from State records, or shall incorporate reports for all crashes in the proposed enforcement area.**
 - c. A list of countermeasures, treatments, or actions that have been implemented at each proposed photo enforcement location, including the time period these countermeasures or treatments have been in place and an analysis of any crash or speed violation reductions directly attributable to these countermeasures or treatments.
 - d. A detailed explanation of how the photo enforcement system will reduce speed violations or crashes.
 - e. An explanation of why the photo enforcement system is a preferable alternative to other strategies.
 - f. The name of the law enforcement agency tasked with issuing citations and administering the records for each installation within the system.
 - g. Plans and specifications for the proposed photo enforcement system, including all civil, mechanical, and electrical work proposed for installation of the system.
 - h. A description of any public information or community relations plan associated with the installation and operation of the photo enforcement system.
2. If the permit is approved, install and operate the enforcement system during the time period covered by the permit in accordance with the terms of the permit, ADOT policies, guidelines, and procedures, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as modified by the Arizona Supplement and the Arizona Manual of Approved Signs, and other appropriate references.

The District Office shall:

1. Consider the application if one or both of the following criteria are met:
 - a. The traffic engineering study states that fifty percent (50%) or greater of the free-flow traffic is traveling in excess of the posted or statutory speed at each proposed location.
 - b. The reported crash rate exceeds 2.5 per million vehicle-miles.
2. Accept or reject the application based on whether it meets all criteria above.
3. If accepted, review the permit application in accordance with the most recent edition of ADOT's policies and guidelines for Encroachment Permits.
4. Forward a copy of the traffic engineering study and crash reports to the appropriate Regional Traffic Engineer for review.

5. Approve or deny the permit, taking into consideration any recommendations provided by the Regional Traffic Engineer or their designee, or request additional information from the local agency to assist in making a decision.
6. If approved, determine and clearly define maintenance responsibilities for each party in the permit.
7. **If approved, the term of the permit shall not exceed three years from the date of issue.**

The Regional Traffic Engineer shall:

1. Review the traffic engineering study and crash reports submitted with the permit application and forwarded by the District.
2. Provide a recommendation to the District as to whether the permit for the enforcement system should be approved or denied.

Renewal of Existing Permits:

The Local Agency shall:

1. Submit an application for renewal of the existing encroachment permit for the photo enforcement system to the appropriate District Office. This application should be submitted at least 60 working days in advance of the expiration of the existing permit so as to allow for sufficient time for review by the District and Regional Traffic Engineer. **The permit application shall conform to the most recent edition of ADOT's policies and guidelines for Encroachment Permits. At a minimum, the application package shall include:**
 - a. A traffic engineering study, signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in Arizona, for the area covered by each proposed enforcement system. **This study shall be performed at a time when the enforcement system is installed and fully operational. The study shall conform to the guidelines set forth in TGP 222. This study shall also contain:**
 1. Current information on average annual daily traffic (AADT) by direction, or entering volumes and turning movement counts for systems located at intersections
 2. The current percentage of free-flow traffic that is traveling in excess of the current posted or statutory speed at that location
 - b. A list of all reported crashes occurring in the area covered by the enforcement system, encompassing a period of time of available report data when the enforcement system is installed and operational. If possible, this list should include a minimum of two years of crash data. **This list shall include sufficient information to allow reports for each crash to be obtained from State records, or shall incorporate reports for all crashes in the enforcement area.**
 - c. An analysis of changes in the number and types of crashes since the installation of the enforcement system compared to the crashes occurring prior to installation of the enforcement system.

2. If the permit is approved, continue to operate the enforcement system during the time period covered by the permit in accordance with the terms of the permit, ADOT policies, guidelines, and procedures, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as modified by the Arizona Supplement and the Arizona Manual of Approved Signs, and other appropriate references.
3. If the permit is denied, cease operation of the enforcement system and remove all encroachments from State right of way prior to the date of expiration of the existing permit as directed by the District. **Any cost to remove photo enforcement equipment shall be borne by the permittee.**

The District Office shall:

1. Accept or reject the application based on whether it meets all criteria above.
2. If accepted, review the permit application in accordance with the most recent edition of ADOT's Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures for Encroachment Permits.
3. Forward a copy of the traffic engineering study and crash reports to the appropriate Regional Traffic Engineer for review.
4. Approve or deny the renewal of the permit, taking into consideration any recommendations provided by the Regional Traffic Engineer or their designee, or request additional information from the local agency to assist in making a decision.
5. **If approved, the term of the permit renewal shall not exceed three years from the date of issue.**

The Regional Traffic Engineer shall:

1. Review the traffic engineering study and crash reports submitted with the permit application and forwarded by the District.
2. Provide a recommendation to the District as to whether the permit for the enforcement system should be approved or denied.

260.4 OPERATION OF THE PHOTO ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

If approved, the photo enforcement system shall be operated in accordance with the following criteria:

1. **The photo enforcement system shall conform to all provisions of ARS 28-1201 through 28-1205.**
2. **The permittee shall inform the ADOT District Office within five calendar days of any change in activation status of the photo enforcement system.**
3. **The photo enforcement system shall be operated independently of all State equipment and systems.**
4. **The photo enforcement system shall not interfere with, impede, or obstruct any State equipment, system, device, or feature.**
5. **The photo enforcement system shall conform to all applicable ADOT clear zone and crashworthiness guidelines.**
6. **The electrical service for the photo enforcement system shall be independent from all State equipment and systems.**

- 7. The photo enforcement system shall not use State conduit and/or pull boxes unless specifically approved by the Regional Traffic Engineer.**
- 8. Any connections between the photo enforcement system and State equipment and systems shall be isolated in a manner acceptable to the Regional Traffic Engineer.**
9. If the photo enforcement system must be modified, relocated, or removed in order to accommodate changes or improvements to State highways or any associated equipment, devices, or systems, the permittee is responsible for all costs of modification, relocation, or removal.
- 10. If ADOT determines the permittee is not in compliance with the requirements of the permit, ADOT shall direct the permittee to immediately conform to the requirements of the permit or to immediately remove the system from State right of way. Any cost to remove photo enforcement equipment shall be borne by the permittee.**