

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 126869  
COUNCIL BILL 120600

AN ORDINANCE establishing additional uses for automated traffic safety cameras and designating restricted racing zones; amending Section 11.50.570 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and adding a new Section 11.50.580 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, automated cameras are a tool to enforce traffic safety that does not rely on in-person traffic stops; and

WHEREAS, following State authorization, the City of Seattle began use of automated cameras for red light enforcement in 2006, school zones in 2012, West Seattle Bridge closure restrictions in 2020 (since removed), and block-the-box and transit-only lane enforcement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Council approved funding in the 2023 Adopted Budget for doubling the school zone camera program and requested a detailed implementation plan and evaluation of traffic safety camera programs from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) through a Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI-SDOT-304-A-001-2023 as adopted in Resolution 32087) due to Council by August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, SLI-SDOT-304-A-001-2023 specifically requests: (1) a detailed implementation plan for the doubling of the School Zone Camera that includes a schedule of school zone camera deployment by location, documentation of the race and social justice analysis used to inform the new school zone camera deployments, the anticipated budget adjustments to program administration and school safety programs based on the deployment schedule, and any anticipated legislation necessary to implement the camera

1 deployment; and (2), an evaluation of the costs and benefits for expanding other  
2 automated traffic safety camera programs, including red light cameras, block-the-  
3 box/transit-lane enforcement cameras, speed zone cameras, and other traffic camera  
4 authority provided under state law, including a recommendation and proposed schedule  
5 for deployment of additional automated traffic safety cameras and programs; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2022, the State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESSB) 5974  
7 amending Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.63.170, authorizing additional uses of  
8 automated cameras in specific zones; and

9 WHEREAS, RCW 46.63.170(1)(d)(i)(C) authorizes the use of automated cameras to detect  
10 speed violations in locations designated by local ordinance as a zone subject to specified  
11 restrictions and penalties on racing and race attendance; and

12 WHEREAS, RCW 46.63.170(1)(d)(ii) requires an equity analysis that evaluates livability,  
13 accessibility, economics, education, and environmental health in determining where to  
14 locate an automated camera; and

15 WHEREAS, the Council anticipates that SPD and SDOT will present an implementation plan to  
16 make use of this authorization for consideration as part of a future budget proposal,  
17 including progress on completing the required equity analysis of proposed camera  
18 locations and in consideration of Vision Zero safety goals; and

19 WHEREAS, the Council anticipates that SPD and SDOT will work with the Office of Civil  
20 Rights and SDOT's Transportation Equity Workgroup in the development of camera  
21 enforcement implementation plans to address issues such as mitigating the  
22 disproportionate impacts of fines and focus on highest-risk behavior; creating an  
23 equitable citywide distribution of cameras; developing a policy to prioritize physical

1 street safety improvements before implementing automated ticketing; and addressing  
2 privacy concerns by documenting, publicization and strengthening protections around the  
3 use of images and data collected by automated enforcement cameras; NOW,  
4 THEREFORE,

5 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

6 Section 1. Section 11.50.570 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
7 126183, is amended as follows:

8 **11.50.570 Automated traffic safety cameras**

9 A. Automated traffic safety cameras may be used to detect one ~~((4))~~ or more of the  
10 following: stoplight, railroad crossing or school speed zone violations, ~~((6))~~ violations included  
11 in subsection 11.50.570.H for the duration of the pilot program authorized under subsection  
12 11.50.570.H, maximum speed limit violations in school walk, park, and hospital zones as  
13 permitted by state law, or, consistent with RCW 46.63.170(1)(d)(i), on streets that are either  
14 designated as a priority location in a road safety plan submitted to the state, show a significantly  
15 higher rate of collisions than the City average over a period of at least three years prior to  
16 installation and other speed reduction measures are not feasible or have not been sufficiently  
17 effective at reducing travel speeds, or is a street designated by ordinance as a restricted racing  
18 zone. Except as provided in subsection 11.50.570.H, use of automated traffic safety cameras is  
19 restricted to the following locations only:

- 20 1. Intersections of two ~~((2))~~ or more arterials with traffic control signals that  
21 have yellow change interval durations in accordance with Section 11.50.130, which interval may  
22 not be reduced after placement of the cameras;
- 23 2. Railroad crossings; ~~((and))~~

1                   3. School speed zones ((-));

2                   4. School walk areas as defined in RCW 28A.160.160;

3                   5. Public park speed zones;

4                   6. Hospital speed zones; and

5                   7. Additional speed detection locations that meet any of the criteria in RCW

6 46.63.170(1)(d).

7   \* \* \*

8                   C. Before adding additional automated traffic safety cameras or relocating any existing  
9 camera, the City Council must prepare an analysis of the locations within the City where  
10 automated traffic safety cameras are proposed to be located. Beginning June 7, 2013, an annual  
11 report must be posted on the City's website of the number of traffic accidents that occurred at  
12 each location where an automated traffic safety camera is located as well as the number of  
13 notices of infraction issued for each camera and any other relevant information deemed  
14 appropriate. For automated traffic safety cameras authorized by RCW 46.63.170(1)(d)(i), the  
15 City must complete an equity analysis that evaluates livability, accessibility, economics,  
16 education, and environmental health, and shall consider the outcome of that analysis when  
17 identifying where to locate an automated traffic safety camera.

18   \* \* \*

19                   Section 2. A new Section 11.50.580 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

20 **11.50.580 Designation of restricted racing zones**

21 Pursuant to RCW 43.63.170(1)(d)(i)(C), the following streets are designated as restricted racing  
22 and race attendance zones subject to automated camera enforcement to detect maximum speed  
23 limit violations:

- 1           A. Alki Ave SW between 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW and Harbor Ave SW.
- 2           B. Harbor Ave SW between Alki Ave SW and SW Spokane St.
- 3           C. West Marginal Way SW between SW Spokane St and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW.
- 4           D. Sand Point Way NE between 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and NE 95<sup>th</sup> St.
- 5           E. NE 65<sup>th</sup> St between Sand Point Way NE and Magnuson Park.
- 6           F. Roadways inside Magnuson Park including, but not limited to, NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Lake
- 7 Shore Dr NE.
- 8           G. Seaview Ave NW between Golden Gardens Park and 34<sup>th</sup> Ave NW.
- 9           H. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW between Leary Way NW and N 145<sup>th</sup> St.
- 10          I. Martin Luther King Jr Way S between S Massachusetts St and S Henderson St.
- 11          J. Rainier Ave S from S Jackson St south to the city limits.

12           Section 3. The City shall not install new automated traffic safety cameras under the  
13 authority of SMC 11.50.570.A.4, 11.50.570.A.5, 11.50.570.A.6 or 11.50.570.A.7 until the  
14 Executive has submitted to the City Council, and filed with the City Clerk, a response to  
15 Statement of Legislative Intent SDOT-304-A-001-2023 (Resolution 32087).

16

1 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 25th day of July, 2023,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 25th day of  
6 July, 2023.

7 

8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed this 31st day of July, 2023.

10 

11 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 31st day of July, 2023.

13 

14 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

15 (Seal)