

July 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities Committee
From: Calvin Chow, Analyst
Subject: SDOT Camera Enforcement Legislation – Council Bill 120625

On August 1, 2023, the Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities (TSPU) Committee will consider and possibly vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120625](#), amending the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to implement the automated camera enforcement provisions authorized by Washington State in 2022. The proposed legislation addresses implementation issues such as authorizing the use of warning notices and establishing the fee for block-the-box and restricted-lane infractions. This legislation follows the Council’s recent passage of [CB 120600](#), which designated restricted racing zones where speed enforcement cameras could be utilized.

Section 1 of CB 120625 revises [SMC 11.31.090](#) to update the list of traffic infractions to include all authorized automated camera infractions. Section 2 incorporates the 2022 camera enforcement provisions of Washington State law into [SMC 11.50.570](#), including authorization to issue warning notices for first infractions. Section 3 establishes the existing \$75 fee for block-the-box and restricted-lane infractions in [SMC 11.31.121](#). Section 4 aligns the new provisions with the expiration date extended by [Ordinance 126841](#). Central Staff has reviewed the proposed legislation and has not identified any policy concerns for Council’s attention.

While CB 120625 adds the \$75 fee to SMC 11.31.121, the proposed legislation does not change the infraction fees for red light cameras (\$139) or school zone cameras (\$237). The infraction for speed enforcement cameras, including cameras located in restricted racing zones, will be \$139.

Summary of Camera Infraction Fees

| Violation Code | Description | Infraction Fee |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| 11.50.140 | RED LIGHT CAMERA VIOLATION | \$139.00 |
| 11.52.040 | SPEEDING TRAFFIC CAMERA VIOLATION | \$139.00 |
| 11.50.150 | RED ARROW CAMERA VIOLATIONS | \$139.00 |
| 11.52.100 | SPEED, SCHOOL CROSSWALKS CAMERA VIOLATION | \$237.00 |
| 11.50.070 | TCD OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC AT SIGNAL CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |
| 11.53.190 | DRIVING IN BIKE LANE CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |
| 11.53.230 | HOV LANE VIOLATION CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |
| 11.72.040 | BLOCK TRAFFIC-STOP/PARK OCCUPD VEH CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |
| 11.72.080 | CROSSWALK CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |
| 11.72.210 | INTERSECTION CAMERA VIOLATION | \$75.00 |

Source: Seattle Municipal Court [website](#).

CB 120625 does not provide budget or identify specific locations for installing additional automated cameras. Operation of additional automated cameras will require a budget proposal for camera installation, including a staffing plan for processing additional infractions.

As adopted in [Resolution 32087, Statement of Legislative Intent \(SLI\) SDOT-304-A-001](#) requests that SDOT report on: (1) an implementation plan for the expansion of school zone cameras authorized in the 2023 Adopted Budget, and (2) an evaluation and recommendation for implementing the additional camera authority authorized by Washington State in 2022. SDOT's response to the SLI was not available for Central Staff review at the time of this writing (it is due to Council on August 1, 2023). The SLI response is scheduled to be discussed at the August 1, 2023, TSPU Committee in conjunction with CB 120625.

cc: Esther Handy, Director
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director
Brian Goodnight, Lead Analyst