

RED LIGHT AND SPEED CAMERA INFORMATION PAGE

On *July 3, 2011* enforcement will begin at the locations where red light and speed cameras are placed and actual notices of infractions and fines due will be sent to violators. We anticipate that questions and complaints will be received from the public once actual enforcement begins and the violation notices are received. We are providing the following relevant information for reference and to pass along as you address these inquiries.

REFERRAL PHONE NUMBERS

Des Moines Police Traffic Unit 515-271-4650
Phones answered M-F, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Des Moines Police Patrol Section..... 515-283-4836
Phones answered M-F, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Gatso USA Traffic Enforcement Solutions..... 855-370-4229
Phones answered M-F, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM Central time

RED LIGHT CAMERA LOCATIONS

1. East 15th & Maple Streets (northbound)
2. 19th Street & University Avenue (northbound)
3. MLK, Jr. Parkway & School Street (eastbound)
4. SE 5th & Army Post Road (eastbound)
5. 9th Street & Grand Avenue (southbound)

The red light camera locations were selected by using statistical information provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation for the year 2010. The factors considered in determining placement were:

- Number of accidents at the intersection
- Severity of the accidents
- Type of accident (intersections with a greater volume of right-angle crashes were chosen)
- Traffic volume
- Type of intersection control (only electronically controlled intersections could be used)
- Construction standards
- Plans for intersection reconfiguration (intersections with upcoming reconfiguration plans were not used)

SPEED ENFORCEMENT

- One camera will be placed at a fixed location in I-235 (exact placement not yet determined).
- Mobile unit will be placed in a different location each day.
- The locations will be announced daily through media outlets and the department's Facebook page.

FINES

- \$65.00 for red light violations
- \$65.00 for speed violations 1-15 mph over the posted speed limit
- \$75.00 for speed violations 16-20 mph over the posted speed limit
- \$80.00 plus \$2.00 for each mph in excess of 21 mph over the posted speed limit

Note: The citations will be in the form of civil infractions and will not impact a person's driver's license.

Des Moines, Iowa Police Department
Public Safety Automated Traffic Enforcement

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the automated enforcement systems?

A. *The police department is committed to the safety of our residents and visitors, including the motoring public. As well, traffic related complaints are among the most frequently heard from our citizens. The intent of the automated systems is to reduce accidents and seek voluntary compliance to traffic laws from motorists.*

Q. What are the locations of the red light systems?

A. *East 15th Street & Maple Street, 19th & University, Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway & School Street, SE 5th & Army Post Road and 9th & Grand Avenue.*

Q. What is the location(s) of the fixed speed system on I-235?

A. *The location(s) will be determined after further analysis. The location and date of installation is not yet determined.*

Q. How many enforcement systems are being utilized?

A. *The police department is utilizing a mobile system that can be used to respond to areas that have a high rate of traffic accidents, locations that citizens have expressed concern about, school and construction zones and other enforcement as identified by the police department.*

Q. Is a citation reported to the State of Iowa, Department of transportation?

A. *No, the citation is a civil infraction that holds the registered owner of the vehicle responsible for the infraction.*

Q. How do I pay the citation or contest it?

A. *The instructions for payment and contesting are on the notice. However, if you have lost the notice or need other payment information, please call 877-393-8375*

Q. Are the systems legal?

A. *Yes, the city has an ordinance, 114-243, that allows the enforcement systems. As well, the Iowa Supreme Court has stated that the systems are constitutional.*

Q. What are the fines?

A. *The fine structures are attached to the ordinance on the website.*

Q. How does the system work?

A. *The speed systems, both mobile and fixed use certified radar and a camera system to identify speeding motorists. If the radar system detects a speeding motorist the camera is activated and pictures of the speeding vehicle are taken. The radar system is lane specific and the camera identifies which lane the detection came from. At least two clear pictures of the moving vehicle we will be available for review.*

The red light system used a radar system to detect a vehicle if the traffic control light is red. Again, the detection is lane specific and two pictures and a video will be available to identify the vehicle that ran the red light.

The final decision if a notice will be issued or not is the responsibility of the police department. GATSO USA, the vendor, does the initial evaluation and the police department makes the final determination.

Please refer to other sections of this website for more information.

Thank you and please drive safely.