

# Traffic Control Photograph System

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## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What is a red light violation?**

According to Tennessee state law TCA 55-8-110, Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or “Go” is shown alone. A right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the state; provided, that the prospective turning car shall come to a full and complete stop before turning and that the turning car shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal; provided, further, such turn will not endanger other traffic lawfully using the intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections, except those that are clearly marked by a “No Turns On Red” sign, which may be erected by the responsible municipal or county governments at intersections which they decide require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety. A violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the signal light has turned red. Motorists trapped inadvertently in an intersection when the signal changes to red (e.g., waiting to turn left) are not red light violators. Motorists that travel over the stop bar while the light is yellow are not red light violators. The light must be red when the motorist travels over the stop bar. Enforcement is in accordance to TN TCA 55-8-110 and Town Municipal Code Title 9 Chapter 9 Section 904 entitled Traffic Control Photograph Ordinance Offense.

### **What are red light cameras and how do they work?**

Red light cameras help communities enforce traffic laws by automatically photographing vehicles whose drivers violate red lights. A red light camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors that monitor traffic flow at the crosswalk or stop bar. The system continuously monitors the traffic signal 24/7, and the camera itself is triggered by any vehicle entering the intersection after the signal has turned red.

Photographs taken by the system show the violating vehicle in the intersection, and record the date, time of day, time elapsed since the beginning of the red signal, and vehicle speed. Notices are sent by mail to owners, who in according to state law, is the responsible party, of the violating vehicles, following a review of the photographic evidence by P.O.S.T Certified police officers. The traffic light must be red prior to a vehicle entering the intersection before a citation will be issued.

### **When approaching a traffic light and the light turns yellow, what should I do to avoid a citation?**

When the yellow light is observed, remember this means proceed with caution. You should begin to slow and prepare to stop for the light or proceed with caution depending on how close you are to the traffic signal prior to making entry into the intersection. You should at all times avoid slamming on your brakes and coming to an abrupt stop.

### **What are Speed cameras and how do they work?**

This is a Fixed Speed Vehicle Speed Detection System in which two loops are placed in the surface of the roadway. The first loop is an inductive loop which is nothing more than an electromagnet and is able to detect any metal mass that passes over it. The second loop is a Piezo strip. This is a pressure sensitive strip that is placed in the roadway and detects a “tire strike” when a vehicle’s tire impacts the strip.

As a vehicle passes over the detection devices imbedded in the roadway, it causes eight distinct signals. Loop rise (a change in the electric current in a loop as a mass of metal enters the loop) on the leading loop, loop fall (a change in the electric current in a loop as a mass of metal leaves the loop) on the leading loop, the tire strike on the leading Piezo strip from the front tire of the vehicle, a tire strike on the leading Piezo strip from the rear tire of the vehicle, a loop rise on the trailing loop, a loop fall on the trailing loop, a tire strike on the trailing Piezo strip from the front tire of the vehicle and tire strike on the trailing Piezo strip from the back tire of the vehicle. All of the detection devices are imbedded in the roadway at known distances from each other.

Speed is calculated by the formula  $Speed = Distance/Time$  and since the computer in the system knows the distances between each detector and the time it took for the vehicle to move that distance, it is a simple mathematical calculation to determine the speed of the vehicle. The reason that there are four distinct detection devices is to that we can calculate the speed four times. The speed is calculated by measuring the time it takes to travel from one point to another. These calculations are:

1. Leading loop rise to trailing loop rise;
2. Leading loop fall to trailing loop fall;
3. First tire strike on the leading Piezo strip to first tire strike on the trailing Piezo strip; and
4. Second tire strike on the leading Piezo strip to second tire strike on the trailing Piezo strip.

If the four speed measurements are not consistent then the speed measurement is not verified and the incident is rejected.

### **How are violators notified?**

The violator will receive the notification in the mail. The citation will have three photos of the violator’s vehicle:

- a) entering into the intersection with the traffic signal being red or traveling above the posted speed limit
- b) a picture of the vehicle’s tag number, and

c) a photo of the vehicle in the intersection with the light being red or traveling above the posted speed limit.

The violator will also be able to go online and view a 12 second video of the vehicle running the red light. Payment, website, and City Court information are printed on the mailed notification.

[www.photonotice.com](http://www.photonotice.com)

City Code: Jonbtn

**Will a photo-enforced red light running violation show up on my driving record?**

No, these citations are civil in nature, the same as a parking ticket.

**Will a photo-enforced red light running violation affect my auto insurance rates?**

No, these citations are civil in nature and do not go on your driving record.

**Will I receive a photo-enforced citation for turning right on red?**

In accordance to TN State Law TCA: 55-8-110:

A right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the state; provided, that the prospective turning car shall come to a full and complete stop before turning and that the turning car shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal; provided, further, such turn will not endanger other traffic lawfully using the intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections, except those that are clearly marked by a "No Turns On Red" sign, which may be erected by the responsible municipal or county governments at intersections which they decide require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety.

**What is the cost of a photo-enforced red light violation?**

The cost of the citation is a \$50.00 civil penalty, which may be paid online or by mail. Citations may not be paid at Jonesborough Town Hall at this time. If the citation is paid late, there is a \$38.75 fee assessed and the new total is \$88.70

**How long do I have to pay the citation?**

The date the citation is issued, you have thirty (30) days to pay the citation; with a seven (7) day grace period before the second notice will be issued.

**What if I was not the driver?**

You are given the option (Option "B" of the citation) to nominate the driver of the vehicle at the time of the citation. This will put a hold on the original citation and reissue the violation in the name of the nominated person. The nominated driver will then have the option to pay the citation or schedule a hearing.

**What if I want to contest the violation?**

You have the option to come to Municipal Court to contest your citation. To request a hearing, the responsible party must mail in Option C: Hearing Request to Jonesborough Municipal Court

123 Boone Street Jonesborough TN 37659. Your court date and directions will be mailed back to you. Due to state legislation, if you appear in court and found guilty, a fee of \$38.75 will be added to your citation. The total for the citation will then be \$88.75. If you fail to appear in court on your scheduled court date, you will be responsible for paying the citation in the amount of \$88.75.

**How can I pay my citation?**

A payment can be made in two ways: Mail or Online

To mail in your payment of \$88.75 send a check or money order to:

Jonesborough Photo Enforcement Program Payment Center

PO Box 888532

Knoxville TN 37995-8538

To pay online:

[www.photonotice.com](http://www.photonotice.com)

City Code: JONBTN

Note: A Credit Card Fee may be assessed to your fine