

# Safety Camera Program – Fixed Speed School FAQ



## **Q. WILL THIS GO ON MY DRIVING RECORD OR CAN I BE ARRESTED FOR THIS TICKET?**

No. An infraction detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera is a non-criminal offense for which you cannot go to jail. Like a parking ticket, the infraction is not part of the violator's driving record. Therefore, a finding that the infraction was committed, either by payment or after a hearing, will not be reported to the Department of Licensing. However, failure to respond to a Notice of Infraction, failure to appear for a requested hearing, or failure to pay a penalty imposed after a hearing will be reported to the Department of Licensing and may result in a hold being placed on your vehicle registration and license tabs.

## **Q. WILL MY INSURANCE RATES BE AFFECTED?**

No. This is equivalent to a parking infraction and parking infractions do not appear on your driving record. .

## **Q. WHAT IF THE REGISTERED OWNER WAS NOT DRIVING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE INFRACTION?**

State law provides that the registered owner of a vehicle is presumed to have operated the vehicle at the time an infraction was detected by an automated traffic safety camera unless the registered owner overcomes the presumption by a statement, under oath, in writing to the court or in testimony before the court that the vehicle involved was, at the time, stolen, or in the care, custody, or control of some person other than the registered owner. You may submit a sworn statement to the Fife Municipal Court to rebut the presumption, established in RCW 46.63.075, that you were driving the vehicle at the time of the infraction. A Declaration of Non-Responsibility is located on Coupon B of the options page with your ticket. Return the completed form to the Fife Municipal Court, 3737 Pacific Highway E, Fife, WA 98424. **You must return the declaration by the due date shown on the front of the Notice of Infraction.**

## **Q. WHAT IF I SOLD THE CAR OR THE CAR WAS STOLEN?**

You may submit a sworn statement to the Fife Municipal Court using coupon B on your notice.

## **Q. WHAT IS THE FINE?**

The fixed school speed fines in Fife are tiered.

1 – 10	\$101
11 – 15	\$132
16 – 20	\$173
21 – 25	\$224
26 or more	\$250

## **Q. ARE THERE ANY FEES FOR LATE PAYMENTS?**

If your payment is not received or a hearing is not set prior to the due date indicated on your notice, a \$25 late fee may be added to the fine amount.

**Q. CAN I RECEIVE INFRACTIONS FOR OTHER OFFENSES AS A RESULT OF MY FIXED SCHOOL SPEED CAMERA INFRACTION?**

No. Drivers who receive photo infractions are cited for photo infractions only.

**Q. HOW DO I PAY MY FINE?**

Pay your ticket online at [www.fifetix.com](http://www.fifetix.com). You will need to know the registered owner's name; address; birthdate; infraction number; fine amount and vehicle license plate number.

Mail check or money order to:  
**Fife Municipal Court**  
**3737 Pacific Highway E.**  
**Fife, WA 98424**

Payments can be made in person by **credit/debit card** at the Fife Municipal Court kiosk Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A convenience fee will be assessed. A payment box is located in front of the Fife Municipal Court building for after-hours payments by check or money order.

**Important: Your payment must be received on or before the due date shown on the front of your Notice of Infraction.**

**Q. CAN I VIEW THE IMAGES OR VIDEO CLIP OF THE INFRACTION?**

To view the video and images online go to [www.photonotice.com](http://www.photonotice.com). The recorded video and images of this incident will be submitted as evidence in the municipal court proceeding for prosecution of this infraction. You will need the Notice number, city code: FIFEWA, and license plate number. Videos may also be viewed on the kiosk in the lobby of the Fife Municipal Court during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Q. WHAT IS THE OPTIMUM CONNECTION SPEED WHEN VIEWING MY INFRACTION ONLINE?**

Anything in excess of 54 mbps. For best results if you are experiencing intermittent stop/start of the video, run the video through one time and then restart the video after it has had an opportunity to play all the way through. This will help to even out the streaming when problems surface with slower connection speeds. Generally, you will be able to watch the entire video the second time it is played without interruption.

**Q. HOW CAN I REQUEST A HEARING?**

To request an in-person hearing, use the coupon provided to you with your notice of infraction. Your hearing options include:

- **A HEARING TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES:** By requesting a mitigation hearing, you will be deemed to have committed the infraction. You may not subpoena witnesses for this hearing. You would request a mitigation hearing if you agree you committed the infraction but believe the circumstances may be such that the court could reduce or waive the penalty.
- **A HEARING TO CONTEST THE INFRACTION:** If you believe you did not commit the infraction then you should select a contested hearing. Unless you request the officer to be subpoenaed, the procedure at the hearing will be for the Judge to read the sworn statement and watch the video clip. Then you may testify or present any evidence or witnesses that you wish. If you want to have the officer or any technician present, you must advise the Clerk at the time you present your ticket or as soon thereafter as possible so the hearing can be appropriately scheduled.

**Q. CAN I HAVE MY HEARING BY MAIL?**

Yes. You may present your circumstances to the Court by mail. Use either the Declaration for Mitigation Hearing form or Declaration for Contested Hearing form. You can mail it in with your hearing request. You will be notified by mail of the Court's decision, the penalty amount, and the date that the penalty is due. Make sure to respond timely, according to the due date on your infraction. If you opt for a hearing by mail you have no right to appeal the finding. Both forms can be located on the City of Fife website at <http://cityoffife.org/city-departments/municipal-court/court-forms-and-information>.

**Q. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET AN INFRACTION IN THE MAIL?**

Whenever an infraction is photographed by an automatic traffic safety camera, a notice of infraction is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle within 14 days of the infraction, or to the renter of a vehicle within 14 days of establishing the renter's name and address.

**Q. WHAT ARE FIXED SPEED CAMERAS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?**

"Fixed Speed Cameras" are mechanical systems that measure the speed of a vehicle as it travels through a monitored school zone and takes a series of pictures of the vehicle if it is traveling faster than a city prescribed speed over the 20 miles per hour speed limit in school zones. The statistical data and the images are captured and forwarded to the Police Department for review. If a Police Officer determines that the images clearly show a violation of the law involving speeding in a school zone, the officer authorizes the issuance of a Notice of Infraction that is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle in the images.

**Q. IS SCHOOL ZONE SPEEDING REALLY A PROBLEM?**

School Zone Speeding is indeed a problem. On one day in October 2013 we audited the traffic in the four locations that have Traffic Safety Cameras installed. On 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue there were almost 1,200 vehicles that passed the school in excess of 9 miles per hour over the speed limit in 4 hours. On Valley Avenue, there were over 675 in the same 4 hours.

**Q. HOW IS THE MONEY GENERATED BY THIS PROGRAM SPENT?**

The City of Fife has established a public safety fund to segregate monies derived from the photo enforcement program. Expenditures from the public safety fund may only be used for the purpose of paying for costs of the red light enforcement program, including the City's administrative costs; provided, however, if there are surplus monies in the fund then the surplus monies may only be expended for the following purposes: (1) purchase and installation of school zone signs and lights; (2) pedestrian overpass/underpass design and construction costs; (3) sidewalk design and construction costs; (4) streetlight acquisition: operation and maintenance; (5) signalized pedestrian crosswalks; and (6) the design and construction of similar pedestrian safety oriented improvements.

**Q. WILL LOCATIONS THAT HAVE FIXED SCHOOL SPEED CAMERAS BE PUBLICIZED?**

Yes, please see below:

- 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue in front of the Fife High School, East and West Bound
- Valley Avenue in the 5700 Block, East and West Bound

**Q. WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL ZONE CAMERAS?**

The School Zone Cameras are operational from 7:30 to 9:30 am and from 1:30 to 3:30 pm on school days. The easiest way to know that the cameras are active is when the flashing beacons (warning lights) are active, the cameras are also active

**Q. WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RULES OF THE ROAD?**

The Washington State Department of Licensing publishes the Washington Driver Guide, located at: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/guide.html>.