

Kumar Neppalli

From: Diana Steele [dianabet@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2003 6:33 AM
To: safelight
Cc: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Subject: Cameras at intersections

I am happy to see traffic cameras going up at two Chapel Hill intersections. I myself don't do anything at traffic intersections that I would not want filmed. I do often try to walk across them, and you are welcome to document my efforts. Especially at the Mason Farm Road/South Columbia Street intersection.

Even if your primary and admirable goal is to make intersections safer, you will find that when you install a camera for the northbound, right-turn lane of that intersection, you will take in enough money there from people running right through red lights without any stop whatever, and not much slowing, to be able to fund another bus or two for public transit (perhaps from the currently vastly underused Southern Village park and ride lot, a ten-minute bus ride from central campus).

Diana Steele, wary pedestrian
Chapel Hill

929-8092

Kumar Neppalli

From: Diana Steele [dianabet@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2003 11:27 PM
To: safelight; Town Council
Subject: Cameras at intersections

Hello. This bounced back when I sent it last week. Let's try again:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am happy to see traffic cameras going up in Chapel Hill. I don't do things at traffic intersections that I don't want documented. Mostly I just try to get across the street alive and undamaged.

The Mason Farm Road/South Columbia Street intersection is particularly hazardous. The northbound, right-turn lane there is a raceway. Drivers turning east there go right through red lights without any stop whatsoever, and without much slowing down,

While safety and education may be the primary and admirable goals of traffic camera programs, I believe that the installation of a camera at that particular turn would bring in enough money to fund another bus or two for public transit.

Diana Steele, wary pedestrian
Chapel Hill

Kumar Neppalli

From: Ericplow1@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2003 8:52 PM
To: Kumar Neppalli
Subject: question

Just out of curiosity, how do the red light cameras know if you are turning right on red? I think I got my picture taken tonight, but I was turning right on red.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Kleinschmidt [mailto:mark@CDPL.ORG]

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2003 10:37 AM

To: Cal Horton; Bill Strom (E-mail); Dorothy Verkerk (E-mail); Ed Harrison (E-mail); Edith Wiggins (E-mail); Flicka Bateman (E-mail 2); Jim Ward (E-mail); Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt; Pat Evans (E-mail)

Subject: FW: red light cameras

Fellow council members, I wanted to share this article. Please note the recommendations of the the NHTSA --signal timing, signage, street markings, road design, speed limits -- should be used before going to camera enforcement.

WASHINGTON (May 13) - Cameras installed at intersections have reduced the number of cars running red lights but the U.S. government questioned their effectiveness Tuesday and recommended communities try other safety steps.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration issued guidance to cities and towns considering the technology, which was introduced over 10 years ago in New York.

By the end of 2002, more than 72 communities had installed cameras at intersections where motorists frequently run red lights. When a car runs the light, a camera snaps a picture of the license plate and a ticket is mailed to the car's owner.

Crashes caused by motorists ignoring red lights are on average more deadly and damaging than other types of accidents at intersections, according to safety data.

While statistics show the cameras can reduce red light running from 20 percent to more than 50 percent, the government found the devices can be inconsistent and should not be used exclusively. Nor should they be a community's first choice for improving safety.

"Appropriate cost-effective engineering, educational and traditional enforcement solutions should be applied prior to the decision to use red light running camera technology to enhance intersection safety," the agencies said.

"Little research or guidance has been issued that offers proven, effective, and comprehensive procedures that traffic engineers, law enforcement officials, and other state and local agency managers can follow to implement a successful red light camera program," they said.

They recommended that communities first consider modified signal timing, better signs and street markings, road design changes and adjustments in the speed limit.