Photo Enforcement in Scottsdale

City Council Presentation | November 3, 2025 Joe LeDuc, Police Chief





Council Direction & Purpose

At the August 26, 2025, Council Meeting, City Council directed staff to agendize a presentation and discussion on the City's photo enforcement program, including redlight and speed enforcement systems.

Tonight's presentation reaffirms the program's purpose and public safety value by:

- Providing clarity on how the program operates and why it exists.
- Demonstrating its impact on crash reduction and driver behavior.
- Highlighting cost efficiency and role as a staffing force multiplier.
- Addressing public questions related to privacy, fairness, and community alignment.





Program History



2000 - 2005

Crash-Based Expansion
Additional fixed sites
added using intersection
crash data and
community input



2017-2018

Technology Modernization Upgraded to 3D radar speed measurement instead of strips in roadway



Future

Ongoing Assessment
Potential partnership with
ASU to study long-term
efficacy and regional best
practices



V

1996

Program Established
Scottsdale launches one
of the nation's first photo
enforcement programs to
reduce red-light crashes



2010-2015

School Zone Emphasis
Portable towers deployed



2020-2025

Data-Driven Evaluation
Ongoing collaboration
with Traffic Engineering
to review violation,
collision, and traffic
volume trends to inform
future site assessments.

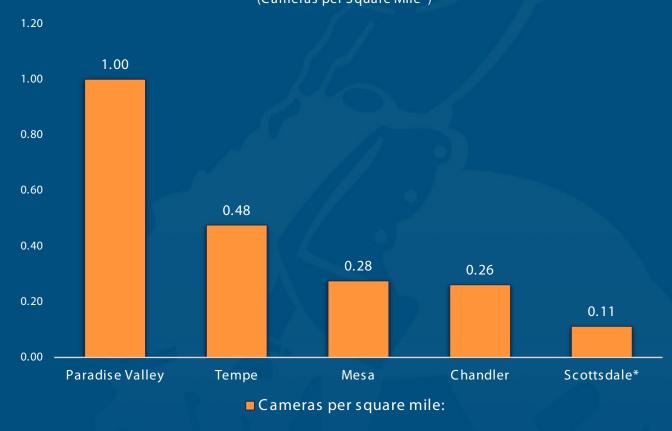




Current Deployment and Regional Trends

- Scottsdale operates 15 total cameras (11 intersection, 4 mobile).
- Coverage equals 0.11 cameras per sq. mile – the lowest density among Valley cities.
- Neighboring cities like Tempe and Mesa operate systems 2-4x denser.
- Demonstrates a targeted, data-driven approach.













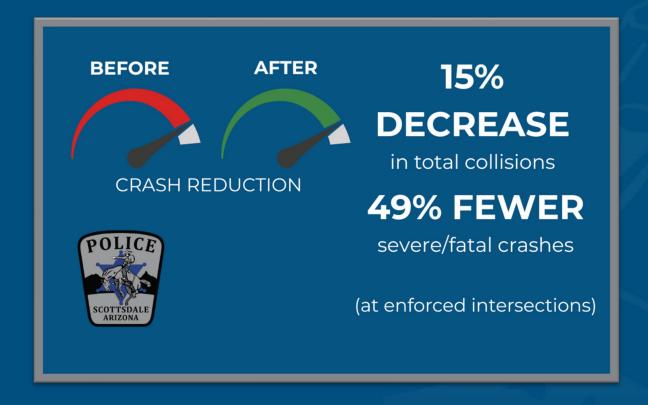






Measured Results, Safer Streets

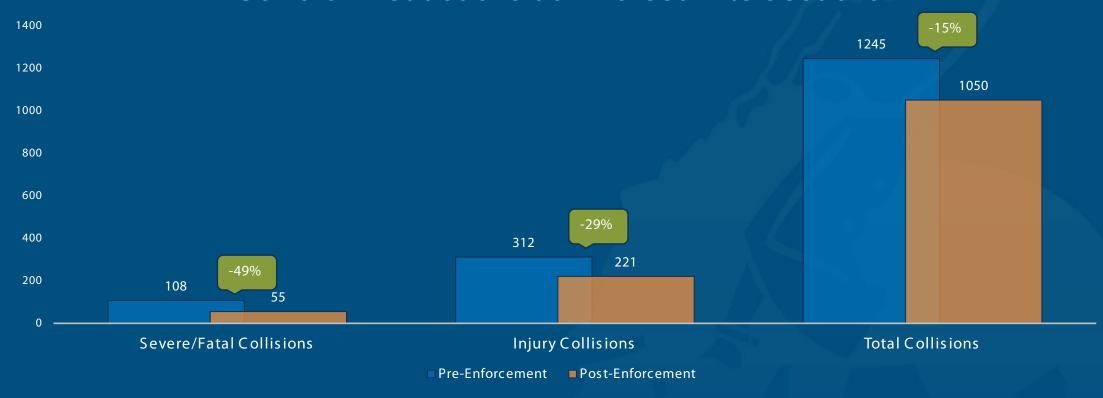






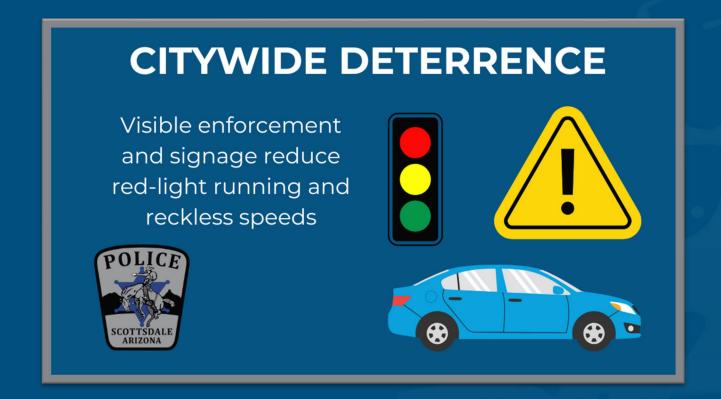
Collision Reductions

Collision Reductions at Enforced Intersections

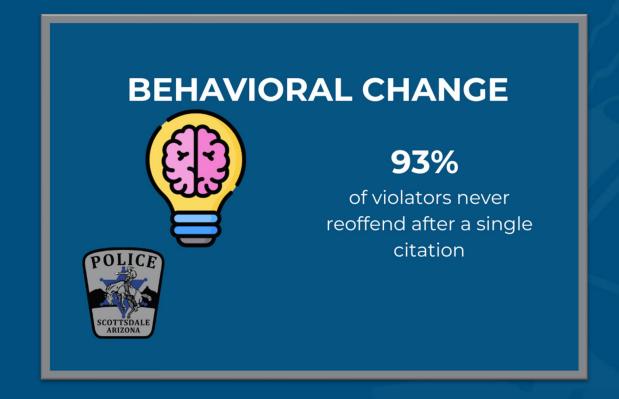




Source: Scotts dale PD Photo Enforcement Summary (2023), authored by Lt. DiPiazza using collision analysis provided by Sam Taylor, City of Scotts dale Traffic Engineer Principal.



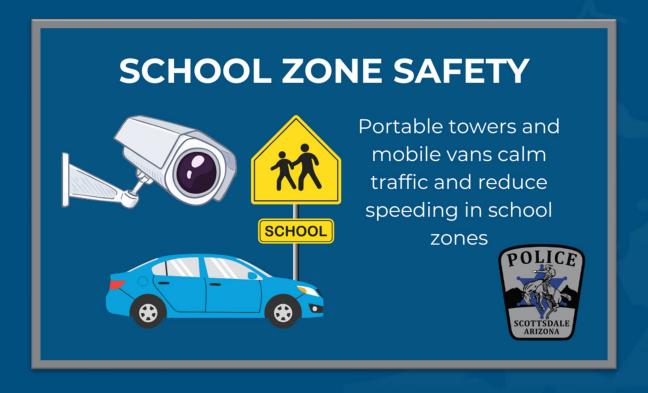


















Process for Issuance of Citation

STEP 1

VIOLATION PROCESSORS (VENDOR) REVIEW



Each potential violation is independently reviewed by certified processors.



The system confirms the vehicle's speed or red-light infraction through a secondary validation check.



Photos are securely reviewed to crop Photos are seemen, the license plate and driver.



Records are sent to Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) data to verify ownership.



A quality-control review is completed by a separate processor before any case is sent to Scottsdale PD.





STEP 2

SCOTTSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Police Staff review every violation before a citation is issued.

Staff confirm the driver's identity and ensure all legal elements are met.

If the driver can be verified, a citation is issued.

If the driver cannot be verified, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is sent to the registered owner.

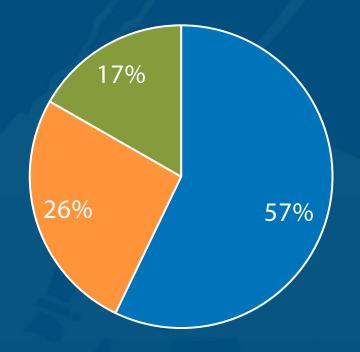
All citations are mailed following police approval to ensure due process and accuracy.



Mobile Units A Response to Community

- Majority of mobile deployments (57%) are based on community complaints and requests.
- Mobile units are also deployed in school zones, neighborhoods, and during special events.
- This ensures enforcement aligns with resident concerns and supports public-safety priorities.

Mobile Photo Enforcement Deployments Nov 24 - Oct 25



■ Complaint-Based ■ School Zone ■ Proactive Safety



Efficiency & Cost Benefit

 Each photo enforcement camera provides approximately 8,700 hours of traffic monitoring, compared to the average Motor Unit Officer completing approximately 900 hours of traffic monitoring annually.





Efficiency & Cost Benefit

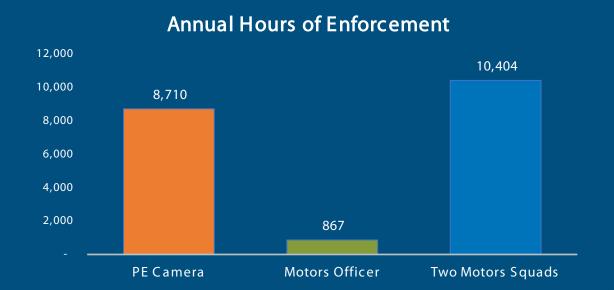
Operating Costs

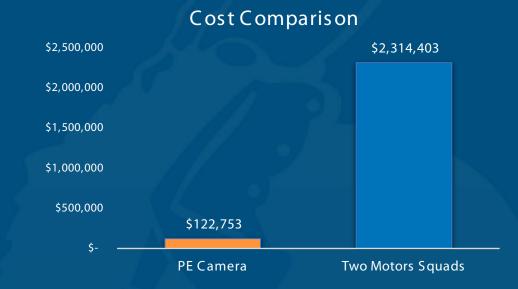
- One Photo Enforcement Camera: \$123,000
- One Motors Unit Officer (all-in): \$193,000 (Includes salary, benefits, fleet, equipment, and overtime)

Efficiency Impact

- Equivalent Coverage: 1 camera = work output of 12 officers
- Total Cost for 12 Officers: \$2,314,403
- Result: A single camera delivers comparable monitoring at ~5% of the cost









Addressing Concerns



PRIVACY & DATA STORAGE

- Cloud, secure, only accessible to SPD and vendor.
- Violations
 resulting in
 citation or NOV
 are purged in 5
 years.
- Violations not resulting in a citation or NOV purged in 1 year.







Looking Ahead

- Continuous evaluation of fixed sites
- Exploring a partnership with ASU for an independent study
- Ongoing adaptation to public safety needs





PHOTO ENFORCEMENT



- Cost-effective
- Data-driven
- Community-aligned



We believe leveraging photo enforcement technology not only enhances public safety but also reaffirms our unwavering commitment to ensuring a safe Scotts dale.



Thank you Questions?



