

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jerrod Kinsman, Lieutenant, Police Services Special Operations Division
Dawn Downs, Managing City Attorney
Tyler Stamey, City Traffic Engineer
Dylan Lewan, Analyst I, GIS, Information Services
Patty Netherton, Municipal Court Administrator

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Traffic Safety Initiative – Automated Vehicle Identification System (AVIS) Corridors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to recommend a proposal from Police Services and Planning, Development and Transportation (PDT), supported by the City Attorney's Office (CAO), and Municipal Court. This proposal stems from recent changes to Colorado law related to the expanded use of unmanned speed enforcement with Automated Vehicle Identification Systems (AVIS), on sections of roadways designated by the Council as speed corridors. The initiative's primary goal is to promote traffic safety through speed enforcement and supports Vision Zero, the Council's goal of eliminating Fort Collins roadway fatalities and reducing injury crashes.

A fundamental portion of the recommended changes are to municipal codes 1106 and 615. If approved, this will result in Council being able to identify "speed corridors" based on complaints, citations and crash data provided by City staff. If Council identifies speed corridors, Police Services can utilize photo speed enforcement (AVIS), in the designated speed corridors. Without a speed corridor designation, updated State law limits the use of AVIS on roadways described as construction zones, school zones, neighborhoods, and roadways adjacent to city parks.

Based on preliminary data collected for the proposed corridors and if all red-light cameras are also adopted as corridors, the system will increase the number of citations issued and increases the AVIS fund balance. The increase of citations will generate additional work for the City Attorney's office and Municipal Court. To offset this impact, a budgeting for outcomes (BFO) offer, funded entirely by this program, will be submitted to increase personnel at the CAO, Municipal Court, and PDT.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Given the costs and program approach, what is Council's feedback on what level of enforcement it would like to see staff pursue?
2. What next steps would Council like to see?

3. What feedback does Council have on timing of implementation and whether to move this initiative forward quickly or consider resources as part of 2025-2026 budget process?
4. After covering the costs of the program, would Council like to see additional funds designated for enforcement, education, and engineering?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Traffic speed is a concerning problem facing the City. Last year, the City experienced a record-high number of fatal and injury collisions, many of which were associated with people driving beyond posted speed limits.

In 2023, the State passed legislation to allow local governments to conduct unmanned speed enforcement with AVIS (Automated Vehicle Identification System). With this change in State law, the City of Fort Collins has the opportunity to impact traffic speed compliance through the expanded use of automated speed enforcement to reduce the number of injury crashes and traffic-related fatalities on our roadways.

As part of the City's current traffic enforcement program, six intersections are outfitted with red-light cameras (two cameras per intersection) that detect red stop-light violations. Those twelve red-light-camera approaches have the capability to also detect, validate, and generate speeding violations where vehicle speed exceeds the posted limit of more than eleven miles per hour, if those intersections are designated within a speed corridor. Additionally, this initiative adds the contracted use of two transportable units that can be placed temporarily in problematic locations to address speed compliance between intersections.

This proposal is also to recommend funding full-time equivalents (FTEs) in Municipal Court, the City Attorney's Office and PDT. The expansion of the AVIS program and traffic safety related FTEs would be funded through fines collected by AVIS, both red-light and speed cameras, if this request is adopted by Council.

Below are links to media related to this recommendation:

<https://www.cpr.org/2023/06/06/police-signs-bill-allowing-more-speed-cameras-across-colorado/>

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004607.pub4/abstract>

NEXT STEPS

- Adopt ordinance changes.
- Adopt designated corridors through resolution.
- Expand contract with current AVIS vendor.
- Approve hiring of recommended FTEs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Traffic Safety Initiative Summary
2. Presentation