

## FHWA Report Summary

### *Red Light Camera Systems Operational Guidelines*

#### **Background**

Red-light running at intersections is a national safety problem, resulting in crashes, serious injuries, and approximately 900 – 1,000 fatalities annually. The problem is complex and typically requires a balanced application of engineering, enforcement, and education measures. “Intentional” red-light runners are usually most affected by law enforcement, while “unintentional” violators are most affected by engineering countermeasures.

The use of camera systems for the enforcement of red light violations is becoming more widespread in the United States. A number of documented studies have shown reductions in crashes at intersections equipped with red-light cameras.

#### **Report Features**

The purpose of these 2005 guidelines is to assist jurisdictions who are considering the implementation of red-light camera systems and help them avoid inconsistent or incorrect application of such systems. The guidelines address typical questions that have been raised regarding the contracting, design, implementation, operation, the legality and intent, and the accuracy and reliability of the technology of photo enforcement systems.

The report outlines proven and effective practices implemented in the United States, and provides operational guidance that can be followed to ensure that cost-effective solutions are implemented by State and local agencies. It also highlights a number of studies that showcase the use of red-light cameras as an effective tool and countermeasure to aid in the reduction of crashes at signalized intersections.

#### **Contacts**

For more information on how to obtain a copy of this report, please see the FHWA website at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>, or contact Ed Rice, Intersection Safety Team Leader at (202) 366-9064, [ed.rice@dot.gov](mailto:ed.rice@dot.gov). The report number is FHWA-SA-05-002.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



03/08