

# SF 2026: Traffic Safety Camera authorization and pilot

Senate Transportation Committee 3/6/2024

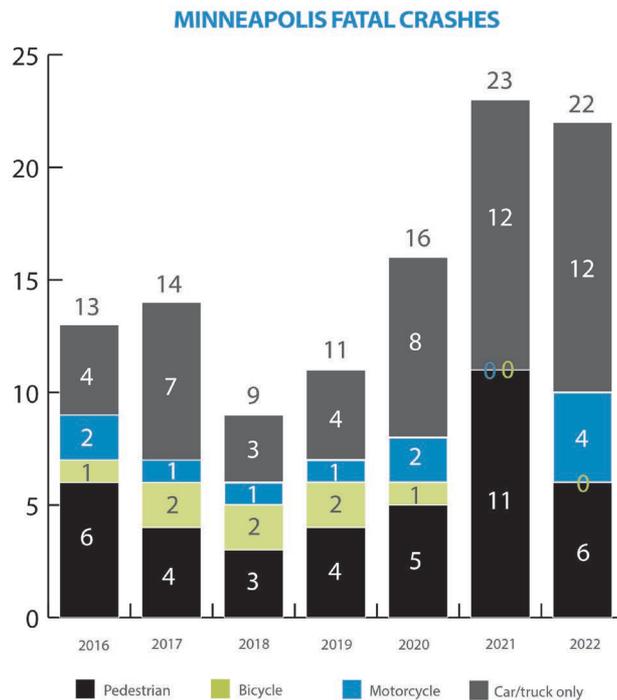
Ethan Fawley, Vision Zero Program Coordinator  
City of Minneapolis



# Why is the City of Minneapolis interested in traffic safety cameras?

- They are proven effective at reducing traffic crashes and saving lives
  - City has goal to get to 0 traffic deaths
- They address 2 of top factors in severe/fatal crashes: speeding and red light running
- One part of City's overall strategy for traffic safety

# Minneapolis traffic deaths up since 2020



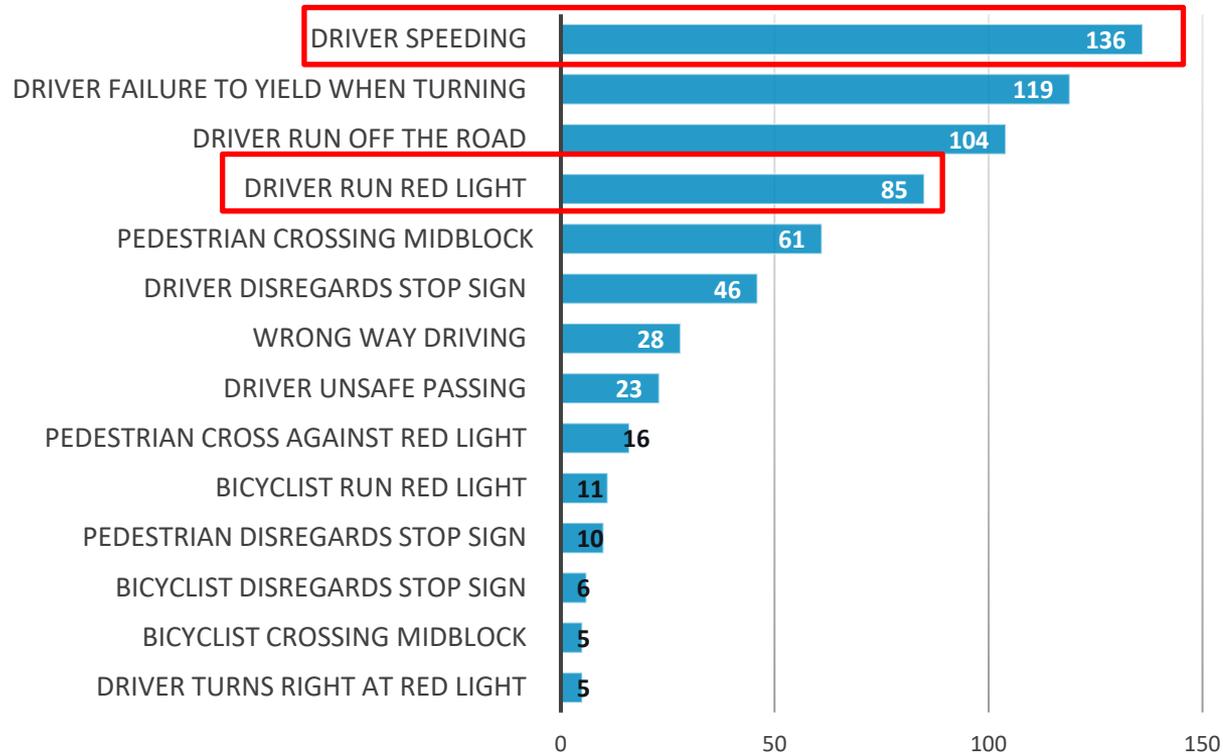
*20 fatal crashes in 2023\**

*\*Preliminary figure*

*Source: Excludes freeway, intentional, and medical emergency crashes. Based on MPD and Hennepin County Medical Examiner data.*

# Minneapolis Contributing Factors

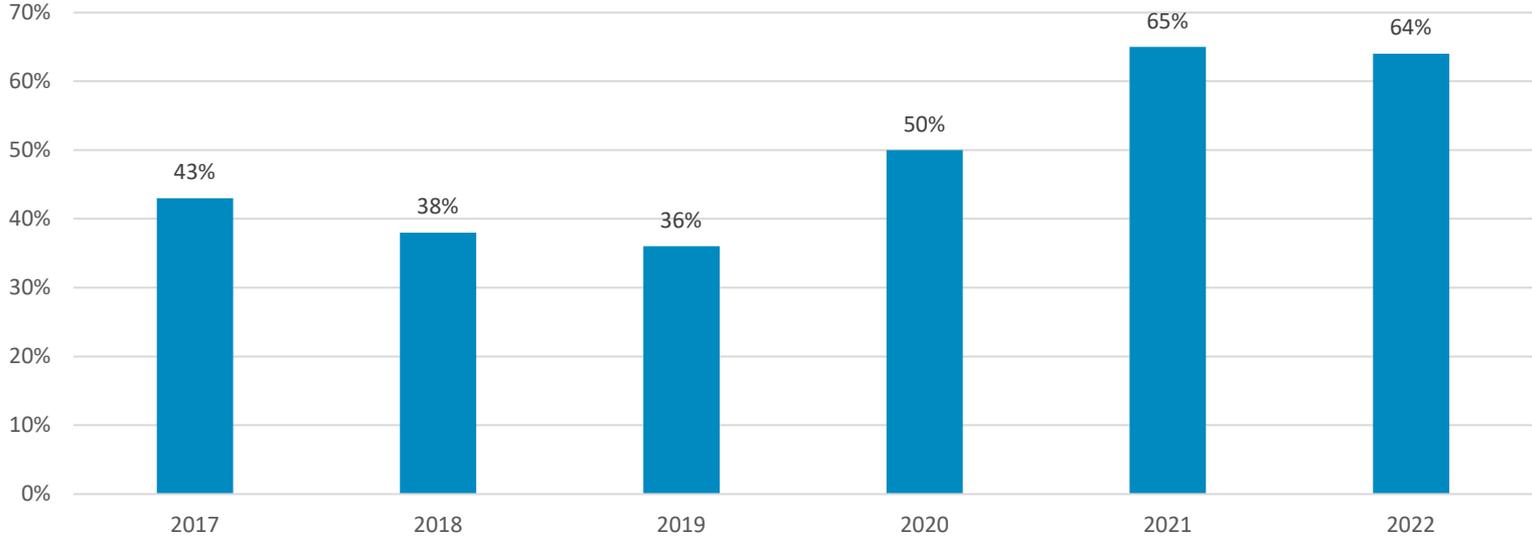
In Fatal and Severe Injury Crashes (2017-2021)



Excludes freeway crashes and intentional injuries. Source: 2022 Vision Zero Crash Study

# Dangerous speeding continues to contribute to fatal crash increase

% of Minneapolis Fatal Crashes That Involved Clear Speeding



Source: 2022 City of Minneapolis Vision Zero Crash Study and Public Works staff review of fatal crash reports. Excludes freeway, intentional, and medical emergency crashes.

# 31 lives lost to speeding/red light running in Minneapolis in last 2 years

In 2022:

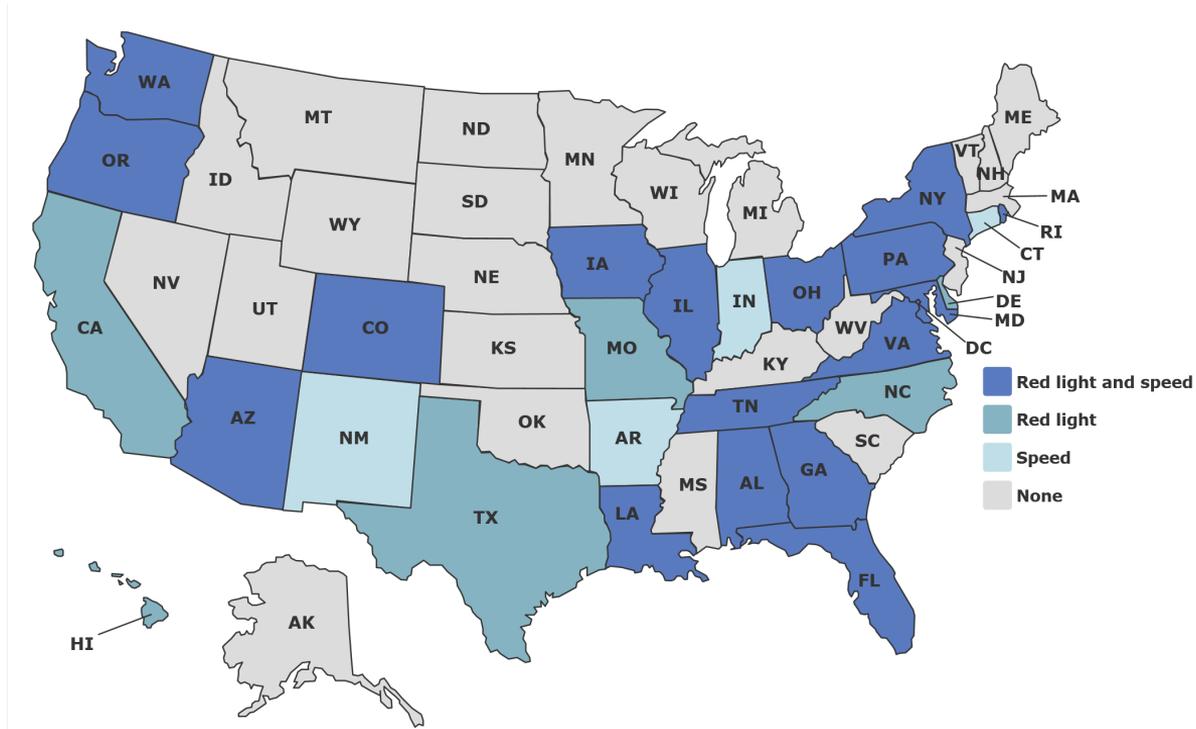
- 6 people were killed by a driver who was clearly speeding or ran a red light
  - 9 people were killed while speeding/running light

In 2023:

- 12 people were killed by a driver who was clearly speeding or ran a red light
  - 4 people were killed while speeding/running light

# Traffic safety cameras

States with traffic safety camera programs  
(February 2024)



# Speed safety cameras

- In 21 states & D.C. & ~221 communities
- MnDOT 2023 study:
  - Every methodologically sound study of US speed camera systems has found reductions in deaths, injuries, crashes, and speeds
  - Studies have found 19-56% reduction in severe/fatal crashes
- FHWA: can reduce injury crashes up to 47%
  - “Proven safety countermeasure”



Source:  
MnDOT study:  
<https://mdl.mndot.gov/items/TRS2303>

FHWA:  
<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/speed-safety-cameras.cfm>

# Red light cameras

- In 23 states & D.C. & ~338 cities
- 2020 study that reviewed 41 analysis of red light cameras:
  - “Associated with 20% decrease in total injury crashes”

Source: Campbell Systematic Reviews.  
Available:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8356316/>



# SF 2026 overview

- Allows local jurisdictions to implement speed cameras or red light cameras at high-crash locations near schools
  - Limited to 1 camera system per 10,000 residents
- Directs a MnDOT/DPS-led work zone speed safety camera pilot
- Requires independent evaluation of the pilot program and reports to the legislature
- Regulates traffic safety cameras to protect for fairness, equity, and privacy

# Setup for traffic safety camera programs under SF 2026

- For County/City/Town to use:
  - Must identify in plan covering traffic safety
  - Must identify locations based on a local study
    - Limited to trunk highway work zones or locations near schools with identified traffic safety concern
  - Must do community engagement and public information campaign
  - Must report information from programs to MnDOT for evaluation work
  - Any revenue generated must go to implementation costs or traffic safety / traffic calming measures
- MnDOT/DPS:
  - Create standards/requirements for placement, calibration, training and qualifications, inspections, maintenance
  - Create a uniform citation
  - Implement work zone speed safety camera pilot at 2+ locations
  - Arrange for independent evaluation and legislative reports

# Bill regulations protect fairness while addressing unsafe behavior

- All locations must have advance warning signage and be listed on MnDOT website
- Speed camera violations at 10+ mph over speed limit
- 1 month warning period at start. 1st violation for each person is a warning
- \$40 citations
  - Can take a free traffic safety class in lieu of 1 ticket
  - \$84 max charge in collections if someone never pays
  - \$80 if 20+ mph over limit (doubles like other speeding tickets)
- Owners can contest citations
  - Owners aren't liable if vehicle was stolen or transferred before the violation
- Violations do not go on driving records
- Cannot be grounds for revoking or suspending a driver's license or for arrest
- All violations must be confirmed by a trained enforcement agent
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors are prohibited from sending citations

# Bill regulations protect privacy

- Traffic safety cameras can only be used for traffic safety enforcement and can't capture pictures that can identify people
  - Cameras can only take picture of back license plate
  - Can't be used as license plate readers
- Warnings and citations go to owner of the vehicle
  - Like parking tickets or school bus arm camera violations
- Cameras can only record data if detect a violation
- Data practice protections, including requirements for data destruction