



Minnesota County Engineers Association



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AFFILIATED WITH



Association of
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March 6, 2024

Sen. Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Chair Dibble and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we write in support of SF2026 (Mohamed), a bill to authorize speed safety and red-light camera enforcement. Excessive speed on Minnesota roadways is a serious safety concern which has grown in recent years as law enforcement resources have been strained, and camera enforcement can help address this growing problem.

Accordingly, MCEA recently updated its platform to include support for the use of photo enforcement of speed limits and red-light violations at traffic signals, **provided that speed limits and signal timing plans are established using objective engineering strategies.**

Safety on our roadways is the number one priority for county engineers. MCEA believes the purpose of speed limits is to promote a safer environment for all roadway users by minimizing conflicts between vehicles and supporting uniform traffic speeds that are reflective of the roadway design, context, and operating speeds. Speed limits are most effective when they are reasonable, predictable, and respected by drivers.

Experience in other locations has shown that public support for camera enforcement is dependent on public confidence that the systems are being used for safety and not for generation of operator revenue. It is imperative that camera enforcement programs do not create incentives for system operators to seek to increase revenue by setting unreasonably low speed limits or unreasonably short yellow light timing.

To create a safer system for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, we need to increase the likelihood of penalties for dangerous driving behaviors. We want to thank Senator Mohamed, Chair Dibble, and members of the committee for recognizing the need for greater speed enforcement on our roads. Thank you for your consideration and support of SF2026.

Sincerely,

Mel Odens, P.E.
President, Minnesota County Engineers Association