



March 5, 2024

Honorable Scott Dibble
Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3107
95 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF2026

Dear Chair Dibble and the members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Minnesota Safety Council supports the establishment, testing and evaluation of speed safety and red-light cameras proposed in SF2026. Minnesotans continue to be injured and killed on our roadways at higher rates than we've seen in decades. A multi-faceted approach including engineering changes on the roadways, driver and roadway user education, responsive emergency medical services and effective enforcement will all be needed to change this trend. SF2026 provides an additional tool for enforcing responsible driver behavior in roadway zones with very vulnerable road user populations like school children and construction workers in the right-of-way.

Combining the lessons learned from the local and state level implementation of speed safety cameras proposed in SF2026 with the upcoming report on speed safety camera implementation from the Office of Traffic Safety, and the anticipated clarifications on commercial driver's license violations and masking from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will position Minnesota to make major steps forward with this enforcement tool over the next few years. It is no secret that law enforcement is understaffed and over-worked in our state. It is also no secret that driving culture has degraded which makes using our roadways more dangerous for all users. Speed safety and red-light cameras are one small way to help law enforcement and put dangerous drivers on notice.

Year to date, Minnesota has doubled the number fatalities from 2023. We run the risk of losing all the safety gains that have been hard earned by all the roadway engineers, emergency medical providers, driving educators and public safety and judicial professionals over the past 20 years. Minnesota needs to focus on traffic safety more today than at any other time in recent memory and SF2026 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for hearing this proposal and thank you to all the committee members for considering this effort.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Aasen and Lisa Kons
CEO Traffic Safety and Advocacy Manager

Cc: Beth Ethier