



City of Des Moines

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THE CITY OF DES MOINES SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

In October 2011, the City of Des Moines installed Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras in the school zone along the northbound and southbound lanes of 16th Avenue South in front of Woodmont Elementary School. The city chose this location after conducting comprehensive speed studies in September 2010 and April 2011. The results of the speed studies showed an average of 100 to 130 speeding violations during peak pick-up and drop-off times during the day. To create a safer school zone for children, the speed cameras only operate on school days when the flashing beacon warning system is operating, which is also part of the safety program before and after school: 7:40 – 8:20 a.m. and 2:40 – 3:10 p.m. This School Safety Program had an initial introductory and public education period where warning notices were issued with no monetary penalty to the registered owner of any vehicle photographed while speeding. Actual enforcement and the issuance of Notice of Infractions commenced on December 1, 2011.

In June 2012, due to an 82% reduction in the number of motorist speeding through the Woodmont Elementary school zone, the Des Moines City Council approved to continue the Automated Speed Enforcement Program. The City Council also approved the expansion of the program to include an additional school site located on 24th Avenue South in front of Midway Elementary and Pacific Middle School. The city chose this second site after conducting another comprehensive speed study in February 2012, which showed an average of about 100 speed violations per day. This school zone also has a flashing beacon warning system indicating the school zone is active.

In October 2012, Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras were installed in the school zone along the northbound and southbound lanes of 24th Avenue South in front of Midway Elementary School and Pacific Middle School. The speed cameras only operate on school days when the flashing beacon warning system is operating before and after school: 7:35 – 8:15 a.m. & 2:35 – 3:05 p.m. (Early dismissal Fridays 1:05 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.) and 8:35 – 9:15 a.m. & 3:35 – 4:05 p.m. (Early dismissal Fridays 2:05 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.). An introductory and Public Education period was conducted in late 2012 where warning notices were given to violators. Actual enforcement and issuance of Notice of Infractions commenced on January 2, 2013.

The City of Des Moines can attest to the analysis released by the traffic safety camera company, American Traffic Solutions. This analysis overwhelmingly concludes the use of automated road safety cameras to identify speeding vehicles in school zones have dramatically reduced the number of violations during hours when children are present.

Des Moines is utilizing advanced technology with the goal of improving driving behaviors within our school zones. Speed compliance cameras in school zones are utilized to make a safe environment for pedestrians and motorists. Drivers are urged to obey all traffic control signs, slow down and always expect the unexpected. This road safety camera program enhances enforcement abilities while freeing up other police resources to focus on the mission of promoting traffic safety.

Revenue generated from this School Zone Safety Program first pays for the equipment/payments to the contractor and covers the city’s cost of running the program (i.e. officer’s time to review the violations and court time to process). The remaining revenue will go into a dedicated Traffic Safety Fund for projects such as sidewalks along identified school walking routes, crosswalk enhancement projects, street signage, enforcement initiatives, traffic calming equipment such as driver feedback signs, implementation of flashing beacon warning systems in other school zones, and other safety projects aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety—particularly in and around schools in our community.

The City of Des Moines has contracted with American Traffic Solutions Inc. (ATS), which provides road safety programs for nearly 300 communities across North America. More information about ATS is available at www.atsol.com.

2013 Statistics

The City of Des Moines had one (1) traffic collision which occurred within the Midway/Pacific School Zone and none in the Woodmont School Zone. The one collision occurred when the flashing warning beacons were on. This was a non-injury collision and did not involve any pedestrians. In 2012 there were three (3) traffic collisions within the Woodmont School Zone.

Camera	2013 Citations	2012 Citations	Percentage Difference
DM01 Northbound at S 264th Pl	850	1305	-35%
DM01 Southbound @ S 264 th Pl	793	1217	-35%
DM03 Northbound Pacific Middle School @ 24 th Ave S	853	N/A	N/A
DM04 Southbound Midway Elementary @24 th Ave S	981	N/A	N/A