



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 16, 2017

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 NE Court Street, HR 343
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:


The City of Portland supports House Bill 2409. This bill will provide a pathway to use existing photo radar systems at traffic intersections to discourage drivers from speeding through intersections. By issuing citations to drivers who speed through intersections, in excess of 10 miles per hour, we can add another tool to improve the safety of our streets.

The City uses 11 cameras at 10 intersections to enforce laws against red-light running and to improve safety. Of those 11 red light camera locations, 9 are also on Portland's High Crash Network. The deadliest crashes in the Portland region occur not on the freeway system but on multi-lane arterial streets. In Portland, the most dangerous of these arterials are in our High Crash Network. 57 percent of deadly crashes occur on this High Crash Network, which represents just 8 percent of Portland's streets.¹

Traveling at excessive speeds has been consistently linked to higher crash risks. Portland's High Crash Network have posted speed limits ranging from 25 mph to 45 mph. For example, if a person walking is struck at 20 mph, they have a 90 percent chance of surviving. A person struck by a person driving over the speed limit on Portland's High Crash Network is more likely to die than to survive. Speeding is a top contributing factor to deadly crashes across the Portland region.

We ask you to join us in supporting HB 2409 and working toward a vision of zero traffic-related fatalities.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler
Mayor



Amanda Fritz
Commissioner



Nick Fish
Commissioner



Dan Saltzman
Commissioner



Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner

¹ See <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/68873> for more info on the Portland Bureau of Transportation's Vision Zero effort and High Crash Network.