



February 3, 2022
House Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter in Support of HB 4105

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the City of Beaverton's support of HB 4105, with the -1 amendment, which allows a duly authorized traffic enforcement agent to review and issue citations based on photographs taken by fixed photo radar cameras.

The City of Beaverton was the first city in Oregon to use photo red light technology. First installed in 2001, Beaverton's photo enforcement program increases the safety of residents by monitoring for two of the most dangerous traffic violations: red light running and speeding. The City partners with our vendor to monitor four intersections for red light and speeding violations and to monitor surface streets for speeding violations utilizing advanced digital photo enforcement technology.

Our photo enforcement program has helped reduce the incidence of crash contributing behaviors, while at the same time allowing our traffic officers to work on other safety issues. The effectiveness of the program has been well established: Injury crashes at Beaverton photo red light intersections decreased 41 percent from the program's first year (2001) compared to the following years (2001-10). The analysis also shows that the City's photo red light intersections have realized a 36 percent reduction in red light running violations.

All photos from fixed photo radar cameras are reviewed to help ensure they match DMV records. In Beaverton, these photo program operators are special reserve officers who were formerly certified police officers. Although an important task, comparing camera photos with DMV records does not require the extensive training and certifications required of a formerly sworn and certified police officer. This bill would authorize a traffic enforcement agent – comparable to a parking enforcement agent – to review lower-level citations.

Enabling citation review by trained traffic enforcement agents who are not sworn officers serves other important functions: it provides flexibility in staffing, enabling more applicants to be eligible for these positions; it increases efficiency and reduces training and certification costs for municipalities; and it allows for quicker expansion of these life-saving programs.

Photo enforcement programs are a proven tool to make our streets safer and more welcoming. I urge your support of HB 4105 with the -1 amendment and invite you to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Haruyama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jenny Haruyama
City Manager