



Why automated speed enforcement makes sense

Nationwide, on average, 14 motorists and 2 highway workers are killed in work zones each week, according to the National Highway Institute.

- Studies estimate that speed is a factor in more than 30 percent of fatal crashes in the U.S.
- Enforcement of speed limits has repeatedly been shown to reduce the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes.

Work zone crashes are increasing.

- According to the Federal Highway Administration, there were 96,626 work zone crashes in 2015, an increase of 7.8 percent compared with the previous year.
- From a low of 67,887 in 2013, the number of work zone crashes has increased by 42 percent.

Crashes occur whether a work zone is “active” or not.

- Requiring that workers be present before speed enforcement occurs ignores the fact that work zones feature narrower shoulders, narrower lanes and lane shifts, with less room and time to react and maneuver. The absence or presence of workers does not change that.
- Eliminating the requirement that workers be present relieves PennDOT or the State Police of the responsibility and expense of verifying whether a work zone was active.
- According to the Federal Highway Administration, 85 percent of work zone fatalities involve drivers and passengers, not construction workers. The traveling public deserves protection too.

Fatalities are more frequent in work zone crashes than in those that occur elsewhere.

- The rate of fatal crashes in work zones has been greater than the rate in non-work zones every year since 2008.
- In 2015, if the fatality rate of crashes in work zones had been the same as in non-work zones, 164 fewer lives would have been lost.

Automated speed enforcement is proven to work.

- Pennsylvania’s automated speed enforcement legislation was modeled after Maryland’s program, which has been operating successfully and reliably since 2010.
- When Maryland’s program began, 7 percent of motorists were driving through work zones at 12 miles per hour over the posted speed limit or faster. That proportion has since dropped to less than 1 percent.

Motorists and workers have a right to be safe while driving or working in construction zones.

- The right to be safe in a work zone is more important than the right to not be photographed driving through a work zone while breaking the law and putting others’ lives at risk.

Please vote to approve Pennsylvania’s legislation protecting travelers and highway workers in work zones!