

Hess, Raymond

Subject: FW: Speed Cameras

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 11:59 AM

To: 'Ken Clark' <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Cc: Hess, Raymond

Subject: RE: Speed Cameras

Ken,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Your feedback will be provided as a communication item on the December 15 Transportation Commission Agenda.

Transportation staff are also copied here so that they are also aware of your comment regarding speed camera considerations.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, A.I.C.P.

Transportation Program Manager

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Thank you.

From: Ken Clark <kenclark@ameritech.net>

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 10:13 AM

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Subject: Speed Cameras

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Commissioners,

While I'm sending you email, I'd like to discuss speed cameras. I was under the impression that they were on the agenda of one of your recent meetings, but when I went to look for that, I couldn't find it.

The law in Michigan that says we can't use speed cameras for enforcement does *not* say we can't use them. It says we can't do automated citations. So, we can't do what most places do and have speed cameras sending actual tickets. However, there are many other reasons to put up speed cameras, which we can take advantage of.

- Recording of when, where, and who is speeding, for future enforcement. Other jurisdictions in Michigan use speed cameras for this. To make more efficient use of limited police resources, you can set up a speed camera to see how bad the speeding is, when it's most of a problem, and even who is doing the speeding. Then you can devote actual officers to the area to catch the worst offenders and/or deal with a general speeding problem in an area.

- Sending automated warnings. We couldn't send tickets, but we could send warnings, and record the fact that the warnings were sent. In that case, when an officer actually catches the person speeding, they could also note that the person had already received warnings about their speeding, and just go straight to a ticket.

- Deterrent effects. The presence of a speed camera tends to slow people down. The presence of speed camera related equipment, even if there's no speed camera there, tends to slow people down. The presence of signage indicating speed cameras are used also tends to slow people down. The MUTCD makes it clear that you can put up signage that speed cameras are in use in places where a speed camera might be used at some other time. You don't have to move the signage when the camera is moved.

Put those together and you can have a significant traffic calming effect from a single speed camera in the city, with no actual tickets written. Put up speed camera signage at every entrance to Ann Arbor where there are known speeding problems, and many internal locations with speeding issues. Put up a speed camera protective box at several of these locations. The boxes are much less expensive than the camera, but it's difficult to tell when the box contains an actual speed camera or is just empty at the time. Then move the actual speed camera between locations from time to time. Because there really is a camera, and we really do use it for enforcement (though only to indicate to police where their resources are best spent), the boxes and signage are legitimate. Someone driving on one of our roads will never be sure that there isn't actually a speed camera when there's a box, recording their speed and taking a picture of their plate, to inform police, to give them a ticket later when the police catch them at it again.

I think that, while we can't do actual enforcement, we can and should take advantage of the other effects and get at least one speed camera to use in Ann Arbor. Speeding one of the many forms of aggressive driving common in SE Michigan, and strongly discourages and endangers cyclists and pedestrians. We should take every measure we have available to reduce the endemic speeding in Ann Arbor.

Thanks for your consideration,
Ken Clark