



February 25, 2015

Dear Members of the Colorado House Transportation & Energy Committee,

I am writing to express WalkDenver's opposition to House Bill 15-1098, which would eliminate all photo red light and photo speed enforcement in every Colorado community. WalkDenver is the only non-profit in the State of Colorado solely dedicated to issues of walkability and pedestrian policy. Our mission is to advocate for policies and practices that lead to a more walkable Denver.

Research has shown that red light cameras decrease severe accidents and help to create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. For example, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found large cities with red light cameras between 2004 and 2008 saw a 24 percent reduction in fatal red light running crashes compared to those without. Research also shows that, while walking improves public health, safety is one of the largest obstacles keeping people from walking. Walking and biking decrease obesity rates, hypertension, and the incidence of diabetes. Automated traffic enforcement is one way to help provide safe conditions of pedestrians and bikers.

WalkDenver therefore believes the red light cameras and photo enforcement systems should remain in place to improve public safety and health. We further support the Denver Police Department's practice of citing drivers who encroach into the crosswalk at a red light. Protecting crosswalks as safe zones for pedestrians is critical for a truly multi-modal transportation system that supports all users, particularly the most vulnerable such as people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and parents with children in strollers. We urge the committee to not support HB 15-1098 in its current form.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at gosa.kung@walkdenver.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gosia Kung", written in a cursive style.

Gosia Kung
WalkDenver Founder and Executive Director.