



To: Honorable Members of the General Assembly
From: The City of Commerce City
Date: February 4, 2015
RE: HB 15-1098, Eliminating use of automated vehicle identification systems

HB 15-1098: YOUR "NO" VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

Background

Photo red light cameras are a tool used by law enforcement to create safer streets for the public and curb dangerous red light running. In 2010, Commerce City placed its only red light camera system into service at the U.S. 85/SH 2/60th Avenue/Parkway Drive intersection. The three camera system monitors both directions of U.S. 85 and westbound E. 60th Avenue.

This seven-legged intersection is one of the worst in the metro area (and possibly the state), with an average daily traffic count of 56,800 vehicles. Just north of Interstate 270, its obsolete design and high volume of semi-truck traffic makes traditional enforcement impossible, as the risk to pursue violators poses an unreasonable safety risk to the officer.

That's why the City of Commerce City **opposes this legislation** due to its negative impact on public safety, municipal home rule and local control.

Rationale

Since implementing the cameras in 2010, Commerce City has seen the monthly **average red light violation per camera decrease by 33 percent**.

The **number of accidents** at this intersection has **declined by 42 percent** during the 12-month reporting period. And the **number of rear-end accidents** has **declined by 50 percent** during the same time period.

The red light camera system is one of many law enforcement tools used by the city's police department to improve traffic safety. By using the system at the city's worst intersection, the police department has seen a consistent reduction in accidents and – more importantly – altered driver behavior to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. These reductions would not be possible with traditional enforcement mechanisms and without the tool, the city cannot enforce this obsolete intersection.

The use of this law enforcement tool should continue to be handled by the elected officials of each community. The City of Commerce City respectfully urges all members to vote "no" on HB 15-1098.

For more information: Michelle Halstead, director of communications & government affairs, 303-289-3719 or mhalstead@c3gov.com.

Intersection Layout: East 60th Avenue and US Highway 85

Note: 7 approaches circled in red create this massive intersection

