TRAFFIC CAMERAS

What is the technology?

Traffic cameras are remotely controllable video cameras dedicated to observing vehicle road traffic. Installed on traffic poles along major roads, the cameras provide live video in real time to SDOT's Transit Operations Center.
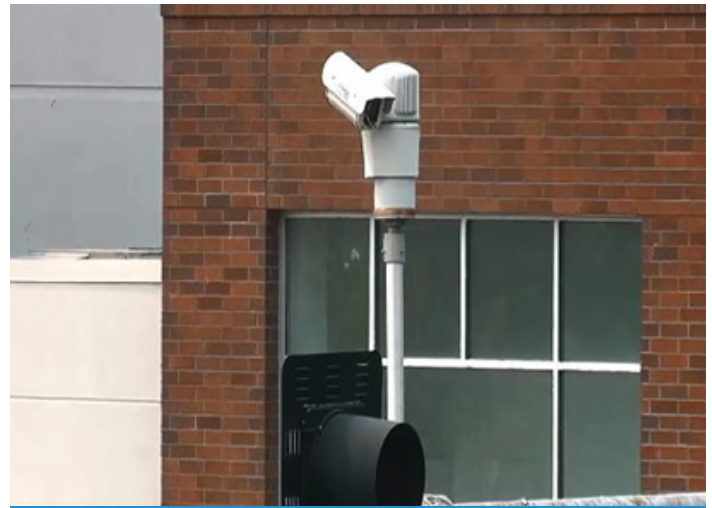
Why do we use the technology?

Traffic cameras are used to monitor congestion, incidents, closures, and other traffic issues. This visibility gives SDOT's engineers the necessary information to detect and respond quickly to traffic issues. These improvements lead to decreased travel delays and improved public health and safety.

Collection

Traffic cameras observe vehicle traffic in real time. The live video is sent to SDOT's Transportation Operations Center for real-time monitoring. Cameras are remotely controlled, allowing operators to maneuver cameras to best understand traffic conditions.

Use

The live feed from traffic cameras is linked to the Traveler Information Map on SDOT's website, allowing commuters to view current, live traffic conditions. Use of traffic cameras allows SDOT's Transit Operations Center staff to respond to traffic incidents throughout Seattle as part of the City's emergency response plan.

The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to **Seattle.gov/Surveillance**.

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Protections

SDOT Camera Control Protocol Guidelines governs camera use, including provisions for individual privacy protection. Traffic camera video is archived in very specific cases for use solely by the Transit Operations Center. Archived footage is not shared with any other City department or entity and is permanently deleted within ten days.

Seattle
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