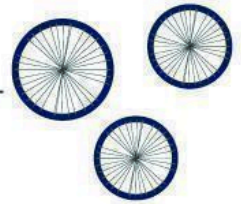




City of Seattle

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board



January 30, 2025

TO: Councilmember Saka and Council Transportation Committee
Mayor Harrell and Deputy Mayor Farrell
SDOT Interim Director Emery
Chief Public Safety Officer Walton-Anderson
Chief of Police Barnes

Subject: Request for 24/7 Operation of School Zone Speed Cameras

Dear Seattle City Council Members,

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) is writing to request the development and implementation of a plan to make all school zone speed cameras in Seattle operational 24 hours a day, every day of the year, beginning August 1, 2025. Currently, these cameras operate only during limited time periods, but expanding their use is a necessary step to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians in our city.

Seattle is in a traffic safety crisis. The number of serious injuries and deaths from cars is higher than they were in 2015, when our Vision Zero program was created. To address this crisis, Seattle has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Safe Systems Approach to street design, an updated Vision Zero Action Plan, and investment in Vision Zero implementation in the 2024 Transportation Levy. SBAB believes 24-hour speed zone cameras are an important solution to be added to this approach.

Speed cameras have been proven effective in reducing motor vehicle speeds. Slower speeds significantly lower the risk of serious injury and fatalities, especially for children, people on bikes, and other vulnerable pedestrians. Local cities, including Lake Forest Park and Kenmore, have implemented 24-hour speed zone cameras with much success. For example, in Lake Forest Park, there has been a decrease in collisions at the intersection of Bothell Way and NE 165th of more than 39% since installing the camera system. While it is important to ensure the fair and equitable use of these cameras, the ultimate priority must be saving lives and preventing serious injuries.

Now is a pivotal time to implement 24-hour speed zone cameras. Car-related deaths and injuries are rising. The Mayor proposed doubling the number of school cameras in his 2024 budget. The State Legislature's House Bill 2384, enacted in 2024, simplified the allowable types of full time speed cameras. We respectfully request that the City Council take action to implement 24/7 school zone speed camera enforcement as soon as possible. Protecting our community, particularly our children, should be a top priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your support in making Seattle's streets safer for everyone.

Sincerely,
Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

Nia Ransom, Co-Chair
Joseph Roberts, Co-Chair
Rafael Ronquillo, Secretary
Donna McBain Evans, Levy
Oversight Committee Rep.
Madin Akpo-Esampe
Max Baker
Ksenia Ershova
Taylor Horn
Molly McNeely
Douglas Migden
Kathryn Ricchiuto
Joshua Scheidt

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planing processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council
Resolution 25534