



CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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To: Ande Banks, City Manager
From: Kelley Warner, Chief of Police, and Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
Date: May 23, 2023
Re: Consider adopting Section 13-1-27 – Use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones and school crossing zones.

Summary:

This proposed Ordinance will provide the City the ability to install photo speed enforcement devices in both work zones and school crossing zones. The photo speed enforcement devices will issue a monetary civil penalty pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-882.1, if the vehicle is found to be traveling at least 10 miles per hour above the posted highway work zone or school crossing zone speed limit, however the exact speed at which a violation will be issued is determined by the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD).

Background:

The City has been successful with transportation funding and because of this is entering a period of time with significant transportation construction taking place around the City. Over the next 10 years the City will see approximately \$400 million in transportation improvements, and this includes the planned widening of I-81 through the City. Because of this increased amount of construction funding, there will be more work zones around the City and more workers in those work zones.

In 2022 Virginia experienced 184 work zone crashes, 104 injuries in work zones due to crashes, and 2 fatalities in work zones. This ordinance will give the City another resource to ensure that our construction work zones are as safe as possible, as it will provide a continuous speed enforcement device within those work zones to ensure worker safety.

The initial deployment location for these devices is the I-81 Exit 247 Improvement project, that is currently under construction and has a work zone speed limit of 25 miles per hour. To determine if these devices were needed in this work zone the City, through a third-party vendor, conducted a speed study in the work zone in the month of April. The study results indicated that during a 7-day period, between the hours of 7am and 4pm (typical work zone hours), there were approximately 22,500 vehicles traveling between 37 and 49 miles per hour, and approximately 600 vehicles traveling over 50 miles per hour.

If this ordinance is passed the City will enter into a contract with a third-party vendor who will be responsible party for the photo speed enforcement devices. The vendor will install and maintain the devices, through their systems identify speeding vehicles, and if issued a citation,

will be responsible for the collection of all fines. Upon collection of the fines, the vendor will then provide payment to the City, less their administrative fee. Prior to issuance of the fines, a Harrisonburg Police Officer must view the photo evidence and then issue the citation through the vendors system. The HPD Officer has the ability to decline any potential violation if they question any of the photo evidence.

At this time only the I-81 Exit 247 Improvement Project is being considered for these devices. However, as additional construction projects begin the City will perform additional studies to determine if any future work zones would benefit from these devices.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

All funds generated by the fines associated with this ordinance will be used by the City to improve safety throughout the City, with a primary focus on traffic and pedestrian safety.

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Community Engagement:

N/A

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance
2. Presentation

Review: