



April 29, 2014

REF: ATE Information Request

Via Hand Delivery

District Engineer Tony G. Lazarowicz
Iowa Department of Transportation
Highway Division – District #3 Office
2800 Gordon Drive, P.O. Box 987
Sioux City, IA 51102-0987

Dear Tony:

Please find the following information in response to your request for statistical data concerning the City of Sioux City's Automatic Traffic Enforcement Systems (hereinafter "ATE" or "ATEs"). The City is providing this information to you based upon the need for future cooperation between our agencies, and based upon our prior history of cooperation. The City of Sioux City is committed to its continuing efforts to increase the safety of the public and persons involved in construction, reconstruction, and travel along our primary roadways.

Please be advised that the City's response to the Iowa DOT's request for information should, not be seen as an indication that the City agrees with the Iowa DOT's attempt to implement rules governing the use of ATEs by Cities within the State of Iowa. The City maintains that the Iowa DOT does not have the authority to issue such rules outside and apart from any lawful rulemaking authority or legislative action. Additionally, the City maintains that the rules do not constitute lawful authority which may govern the City on the placement and operation of the City's ATE's.

Without acknowledging that the request for information or the resulting report is or can be lawfully required of the City by the Iowa DOT, and reserving all rights related thereto, the City of Sioux City respectfully provides the following public records to IDOT.

The City of Sioux City currently operates; thirty-one (31) marked patrol vehicles that enforce various traffic laws including red light and speeding violations. Additionally, five (5) fixed red light photo enforcement systems and three (3) trailer based speed photo enforcement systems operate on the primary road extensions within the city limits of City of Sioux City.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INVESTIGATIONS

PH 712-279-6365
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L.D. PROPERTY

PH 712-279-6358
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COMMUNICATIONS

PH 712-279-6960
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CRIME ANALYSIS

PH 712-279-6158
FAX 712-279-6148

RECORDS/INFORMATION

PH 712-279-6440
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Marked Patrol Vehicles

These systems are leased by the Police Department and are configured on a motorized vehicle equipped with the L-3 video system and Stalker radar units. The deployment of these systems was phased in beginning in July 2012. The L-3 system allows for pre-event recording, which permits the system to be aligned so that it can record red light approaches and monitor speeds in a stationary or mobile mode. The L-3 system records and displays speed readings from the Stalker radar units along with images of the vehicle and the vehicle license plate. The systems are also deployed in a manner that allows the monitored traffic light and any traffic traveling through that approach to be recorded. This provides documentation of red light running. The thirty-one mobile systems are operated by sworn officers throughout the city limits of Sioux City, including along the primary roadways. Deployments include both stationary and mobile operations. Deployment locations are generally at the discretion of the officer but may be directed by a supervisor. Because officers have significant discretion on deployment locations it is not feasible to report the number of deployment hours or exact deployment locations along the primary roadways. No additional signage is installed that advises of deployment activities. The radar unit's calibrations are verified at the start and end of each deployment shift with internal checks and tuning forks.

Primary Roadway:	Hwy75/20 Bypass:	Gordon Drive:	I29 + Ramps:	Lewis Blvd:	Riverside Blvd:
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Year 2011

Speeding Citations	3	85	111	119	14
Speeding Warnings	1	24	36	92	18
Traffic Light Citations	5	41	17	8	0
Traffic Light Warnings	0	33	2	0	0
Accidents:	64	230	225	105	31

Year 2012

Speeding Citations	2	57	69	151	5
Speeding Warnings	3	11	63	78	23
Traffic Light Citations	6	26	8	4	0
Traffic Light Warnings	0	24	0	1	0
Accidents:	42	200	155	99	22

Year 2013

Speeding Citations	6	34	80	81	11
Speeding Warnings	2	20	5	49	22
Traffic Light Citations	6	29	7	6	2
Traffic Light Warnings	2	55	2	1	0
Accidents:	53	189	143	84	21

Percentage of Change:

2011 to 2013:

Speed Related	+100%	-50.5%	-42.2%	-38.4%	+3.1%
Traffic Light Related	+60%	+13.5%	-52.6%	-12.5%	+200%
Accidents:	-17.2%	-17.8%	-36.4%	-20%	-32.3%

We believe the Bypass, Lewis Blvd and Gordon Drive numbers have been significantly impacted by driver selected traffic pattern changes due to the I-29 reconstruction.

Red Light ATE's

The red light systems are located at; Gordon Drive and Palmetto for westbound traffic, Gordon Drive and Fairmount for west bound traffic, Gordon Drive and Nebraska for westbound traffic, and Lewis Blvd and Outer Drive for north and south bound traffic. IDOT preapproved each installation. IDOT approved signage is posted before each approach. All violations are approved by sworn Sioux City Police Officers.

Red Light Violation History:

Intersection:

	Gordon Dr.\ Palmetto:	Gordon Dr.\ Fairmount:	Gordon Dr.\ Nebraska:	N. Lewis\ Outer:	S. Lewis\ Outer:
Date On-Line:	06/26/09	06/26/09	07/01/09	04/30/10	04/30/10
12 HR Survey:	14	14	9	7	10
2009 Violations Issued:	479	458	1,353	na	na
2009 Daily Violation Avg:	2.53	2.42	7.35	na	na
Accidents (all causes):	2	3	3	na	na
Accidents (red light running):	0	1	1	na	na

2010 Total Violations Issued:	540	164**	2,158	674****	699****
2010 Daily Violation Average:	1.48	.45**	5.91	2.74	2.84
Accidents (all causes):	1	5	3	2	3
Accidents (red light running):	0	1	2	0	3
2011 Total Violations Issued:	407	176**	1,757	208	175
2011 Daily Violation Average:	1.12	.48**	4.81	.57	.48
Accidents (all causes):	1	3	4	8	1
Accidents (red light running):	1	1	3	1	0
2012 Total Violations Issued:	395*	687****	1,835	272	240
2012 Daily Violation Average:	1.30	1.88	5.03	0.75	0.66
Accidents (all causes):	2	3	4	4	3
Accidents (red light running):	0	0	0	0	0
2013 Total Violations Issued:	259	768	2,112	295	227
2013 Daily Violation Average:	.71	2.10	5.79	.81	.62
Accidents (all causes):	3	1	2	2	3
Accidents (red light running):	0	0	2	0	1

Percentage of Change:

12 Hour Survey to 2013 Daily Average (24 hours):	-94.93%	-84.97%	-35.71%	-88.45%	-93.78%
2009\2010 Daily Average to 2013 Daily Average:	-72.00%	-13.17%	-21.31%	-70.50%	-78.11%
Accidents (all causes 2009\2010 to 2013): All Approaches: -15.4%	+50%	-66.7%	-33.3%	0%	0%
Accidents (red light 2009\2010 to 2013): All Approaches: -40%	0%	-100%	+100%	0%	-66.7%

*Gordon Drive\Palmetto was closed down for 60 days – average adjusted for limited days
 **Gordon Drive\Fairmount right hand turn lane down all of 2010 and first 9 months of 2011.
 ***Gordon Drive\Fairmount had several lanes closed for 62 days
 ****The opening of the Irving F. Jensen Bridge added in excess of 13,150 vehicles per day through this intersection.

We believe the Gordon Drive numbers have been significantly impacted by driver selected traffic pattern changes due to the I-29 reconstruction.

Speed Trailer ATE's

Our speed trailers are deployed exclusively on I-29. Deployments and violation authorization is performed by sworn officers of the Sioux City Police Department. Radar accuracy is verified using internal checks and tuning forks. Radar accuracy must be verified before a deployment is begun and when a deployment is closed. The system automatically deletes any violations if the verification checks fail. IDOT preapproved the speed trailers. IDOT approved and installed signage is located before entering the enforcement area and below each permanent speed limit sign.

Speeding Violation History on I-29 (At Least 11 MPH Over the State Posted Speed Limit):

	Vehicles Assessed:	Vehicles 11+	% 11+
12 Hour Survey Totals 9/10/2010:	29,885	11,414	38.2%

Speed Trailer History:

Year:	Deployment Hours:	% of Hours Covered:	# of Vehicles Assessed:	# of Violations Issued:	% of Assessed Vehicles Cited:
2011	4,580.37	26.14%	2,246,295	8,692	.39%
2012	11,692.62	66.74%	5,753,803	33,818	.59%
2013	11,659.23	66.55%	5,170,717	26,418	.51%

98.7% **Reduction** in % of Speeders 11+

I-29 Accident History:

Year:	2011*	2012	2013
Number:	225	155	143

*2011 interstate traffic was impacted by the flooding on the Missouri River – ATE partial deployment began 4/30/2011.

% Decrease 2011 to 2013: -36.4%


Severity of Accidents:

	Personal Injury	Fatality Accidents	Deaths
Five Year Accident Average (2006 thru 2010):	41.4	1.6	2.6
2011 Accidents:	30	0	0
2012 Accidents:	20	1	1
2013 Accidents	19	0	0
% Decrease 5 Yr Avg to 3 Yr Avg:	-44.4%	-79.4%	-87.3%
% Decrease 5 Yr Avg to Yr 2013:	-54.1%	-100%	-100%

Conclusion:

This report confirms that deploying ATEs on the primary roadways has increased safety at those locations. Additionally, ATE deployment has also raised overall driver awareness and resulted in improved safety and a reduction in overall traffic violations in locations that are not monitored by ATEs.

Sincerely,



Douglas Young
Chief of Police

