



Transportation Advocates: City Council and Albany Lawmakers Must Build upon NYCDOT's Success by Making Speed Cameras a Reality in New York City

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Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool in response to the release of 2012 traffic fatality data

Today, the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Department of Education (DOE) called for the passage of speed cameras with priority attention given to streets near schools where speeding poses a persistent threat. Data released by NYCDOT lists schools in each of the five boroughs where 75 to 100 percent of cars are speeding within ¼ mile of a school.

New York City's streets are not speedways, but the way people drive on them would suggest they are. Every day, countless drivers are exceeding the 30 mph speed limit on New York City's streets. Our streets are used by children, seniors, the disabled, motorists and bicyclists who put their lives in the hands of reckless drivers the minute their feet touch New York City pavement.

Speeding kills. When a person is hit by a car traveling 30 mph, there is a 20 percent chance that they'll be killed. If they are hit by a car traveling 40 mph, there is a 70 percent chance they'll be killed. Motor vehicles are the leading cause of death due to injury amongst children in NYC, and child pedestrians account for three quarters of these victims. In 2010, pedestrians accounted for 55 percent of traffic fatalities; speeding claimed twice as many lives as distracted driving and is the number one cause of fatalities in the New York City.

These are avoidable deaths and it is crucial that speed cameras be included in New York City's safety toolkit. Speed enforcement cameras are now in use in over 100 communities in 13 states across the country. Research shows that speed enforcement cameras reduce injuries and fatalities by 40-45 percent, and reduce speeding by 71 percent. Their proven success is the reason why NYPD and DOE are joining NYCDOT and many other groups in support of a pilot program for speed cameras throughout NYC.

NYC needs streets that are safer—for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. It's time for the New York City Council to pass Resolution 0916-2011, which calls on the NYS Legislature and the Governor to sign into law the Assembly version (A.4327) of the pilot speed camera demonstration program and for the NYS Legislature to say YES to speed cameras today. Every day speed cameras are absent from New York City streets is another day needless and preventable deaths could occur.

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.