



Testimony of Ryan Lynch, Tri-State Transportation Campaign Hearing on Speed Camera Home Rule Message

My name is Ryan Lynch, and I am the associate director for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit policy watchdog in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Tri-State urges this body to issue a home rule message in support of speed cameras enforcement so that the New York State Legislature can pass a bill authorizing 56 cameras for Nassau County; one of which will be placed in each of Nassau County's school districts.

Nassau County is home to some of the deadliest roads to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists in the region. According to a Tri-State Transportation Campaign analysis of federal data, 88 pedestrians were killed along roads in Nassau County from 2010-2012. According to Governor Cuomo's Traffic Safety Committee, 185 motorists and passengers, and 13 cyclists were killed during the same time period. There were over 100,000 crashes from 2010-2012, roughly 70 percent of which the Nassau County Police Department were the lead investigating agency. Yet speeding tickets made up only 11 percent of all tickets issued during the same time period, a number that is shockingly low to anyone who has driven Nassau County's roadways where drivers speed without consequence and abandon.

Nassau County has taken significant steps to address these tragedies and combat reckless driving with better enforcement. In 2009, the New York State Legislature, at the County's request, authorized Red Light Cameras for 50 intersections in Nassau County. Last year the County Legislature passed, and Nassau County Executive Mangano signed, a Complete Streets law that upon implementation will redesign our roadways to calm traffic and provide safer infrastructure to those who walk, bike, take transit and drive on Nassau County roadways. Unfortunately, motorists continue to drive recklessly and break the law.

More needs to be done immediately because speeding is illegal and it kills.

When a person is hit by a car traveling 40 mph, there is a 70% chance they'll be killed. When a person is hit by a car traveling 30 mph, there is an 80% chance that they'll live. If you are hit by a car going 20 mph, the speed limit in the school zones where speed cameras will be placed, your survival rate is 95 percent.

These are avoidable deaths and it is crucial that Nassau County address this challenge head on. Speed enforcement cameras are now in use in over 100 communities and in at least 14 states across the country. Research shows that speed enforcement cameras reduce injuries and fatalities by 40-45 percent, and reduce speeding by 71 percent. Research has even suggested that the mere presence of speed cameras in a community have a 'halo effect' on drivers, reducing speeds on roads with no cameras or signage by up to 16 percent.

Not only will speed cameras reduce injuries and fatalities by changing driver behavior but they will also:

- Boost effectiveness of Nassau County Police Department and serve as a force multiplier;
- Reduce the burden on first responders, hospitals, and human service providers; and
- Save health care cost through reduced crashes.

Much has been made by opponents who say speed cameras do nothing but serve as revenue-generators. Yes, it's true, these cameras generate revenue. It is estimated that speed cameras will generate \$50 million a year in Nassau County from people who break the law and willingly put other people's lives in danger. But cameras improve safety first and foremost, and the ultimate goal of speed cameras is, and always will be, zero revenue that leads to zero fatalities.