



## **AB 342, Chiu, Automatic Speed Camera Program**

### **What is AB 342, and why do we need it?**

AB 342 authorizes a 5-year pilot program of automatic speed-triggered license-plate cameras in San Francisco and San Jose. Citations would be issued to car owners with an appeal process. Violations would have same status as parking violations, with no DMV consequences if fines are paid. Fines cannot exceed \$100.

Pedestrian injuries and fatalities are a major problem in California. In San Francisco, for instance, roughly two pedestrians are severely injured or killed each week. Speed is a major factor. Pedestrians are twice as likely to be killed (80%) when hit at 40 miles per hour than when hit at 30 miles per hour (40%). This death and injury rate is preventable.

One of the most effective measures to reduce pedestrian injury and death, and the easiest to implement, is reducing vehicle speeds, particularly at intersections. Automatic license-plate cameras, triggered by speed sensors, do just that. In the 141 US cities where they are used, they have reduced traffic fatalities between 50% to 70%.

AB 342 sets up a 5-year *trial* of Automated Speed Enforcement, (speed-triggered license-plate cameras) in San Francisco and San Jose. The cities would locate up to 15 cameras in the most pedestrian-dangerous intersections. Cars crossing at 10 miles per hour above the speed limit would be photographed, and their owners fined less than \$100, which could be appealed. Like parking tickets, there would be no DMV involvement unless the fine was not paid or adjudicated.

The program's object is to reduce speed, not generate revenue or be a speed trap. Transparency is key. AB 342 requires a public discussion of the program, where the cameras should be located and where they are finally placed. At start-up there would be a 90-day period of warnings instead of fines. Camera-monitored intersections must be clearly marked. Use of this equipment has led to a 30-60% *reduction* in the number of actual speeding citations.

CARA is a co-sponsor of AB 342.

### **Where is AB 342 in the legislative process?**

**AB 342 was withdrawn from the Assembly Transportation Committee April 24 vote, and cannot meet the legislative deadline, so it is now a 2-year bill, and will not come up again this year. We need to get more support for next year.**

## What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 342?

Stay tuned for more news on promoting this concept. Contact Assembly Transportation Committee members, especially Committee Chair Jim Frazier. (Contact info below.) Tell them to pass AB 342 because:

- Automated Speed Enforcement cuts pedestrian fatalities by more than half.
- AB 342 is to stop speeding, not generate revenue. It actually reduces speeding tickets issued.
- AB 342 is only a trial in just two cities.
- Fines would be like parking tickets  
Moderate in cost, and no DMV involvement if paid.

Get your organization to write a letter of support. You can use CARA's letter as a template: Go to <http://tinyurl.com/lul4ovc>

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