

Purpose

- *To discuss the Thornton Police Department's use of cameras and trending technologies.*

Agenda

- *Traffic Enforcement Cameras*
- *Traffic Operation Cameras*
- *Body-Worn Cameras*
- *In Car Cameras*
- *Emerging Technologies*
- *Automated License Plate Readers*



Red-Light Safety Cameras

- *Program built on safety concerns, not revenue.*
- *Use of technology to prevent dangerous driving before a crash.*
- *Proven approach- fewer violations, fewer collisions.*
- **GOAL:** *Change driver behavior*



Red-Light Safety Cameras

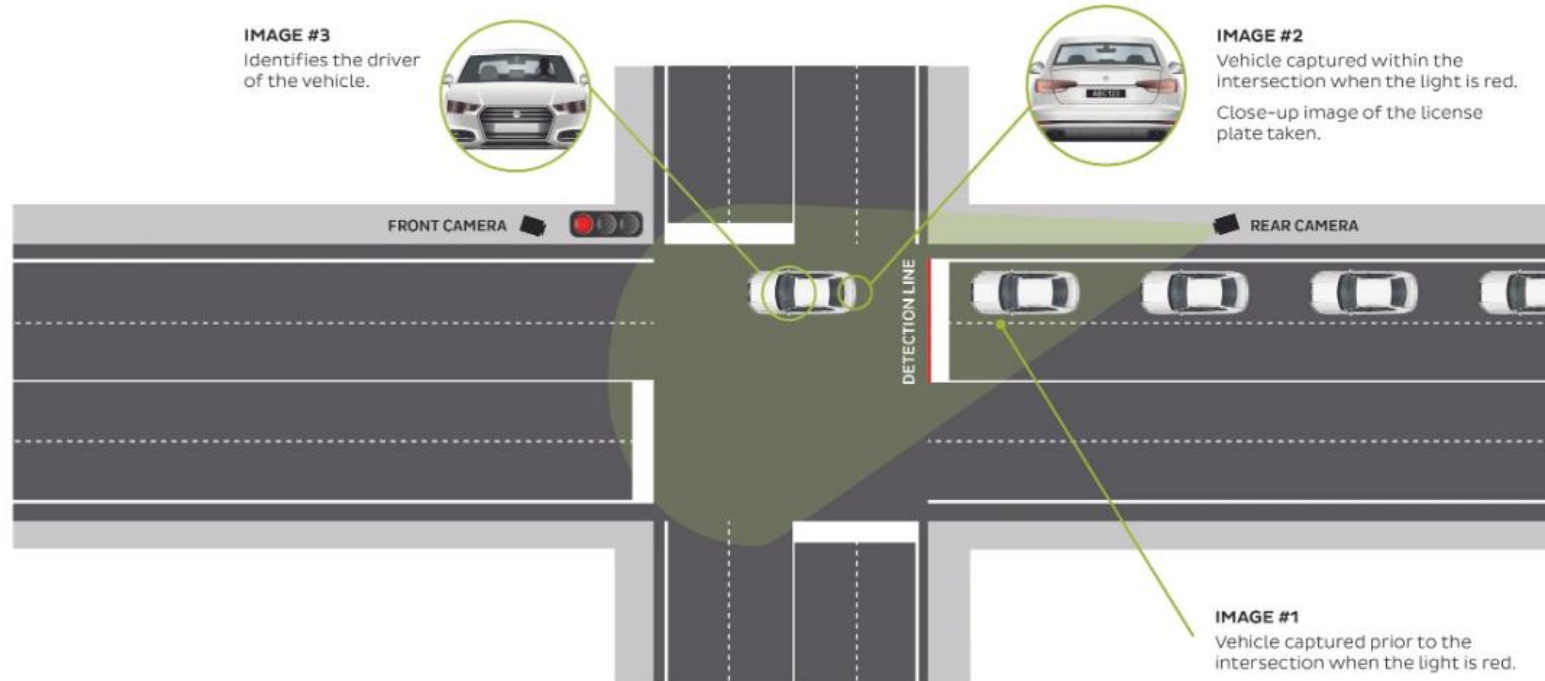
- *Red-Light Camera Locations*
 - *East 88th Avenue and Washington Street*
 - *East 120th Avenue and Colorado Blvd*
 - *Locations selected on crash data and injury severity*
 - *Vision Zero Program*



Red-Light Safety Cameras

HOW IT WORKS

RED-LIGHT SAFETY CAMERA





Traffic Enforcement Cameras

Speed Cameras

- *Why it matters? Speed cameras reduce reckless driving and pedestrian crashes.*
- *Mobile Speed Camera (2) rotating throughout the city.*
- *Reduced speeds = Reduced injuries*

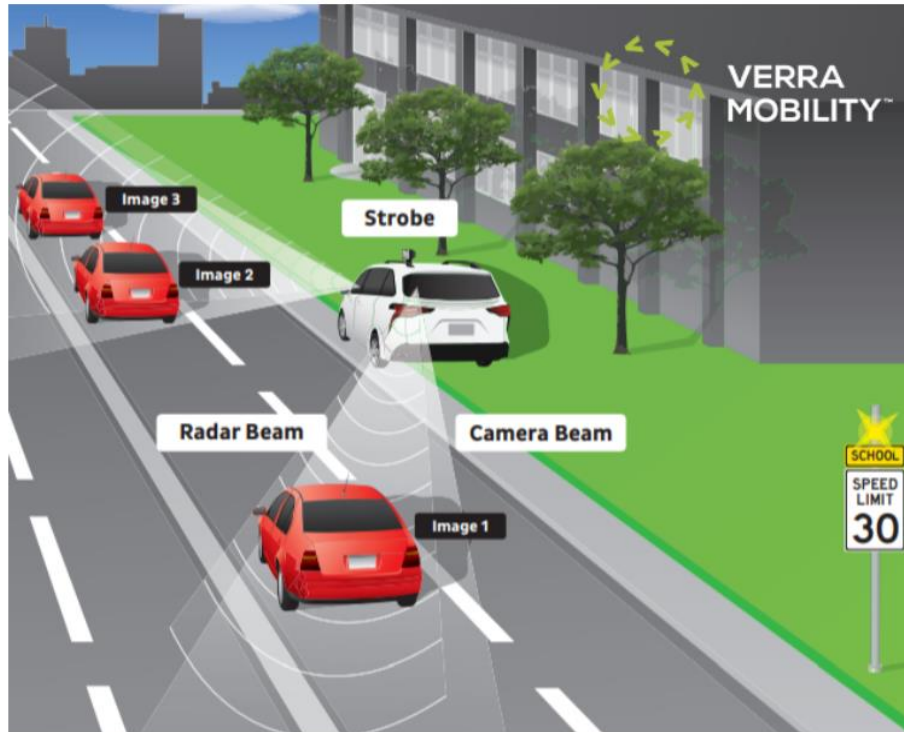


Traffic Enforcement Cameras

- *Use of technology to slow drivers in sensitive areas.*
- *Multi step review process before violations are issued.*
- *Technology is heavily regulated by Colorado legislation*



Next Steps: Mobile Speed Cameras



The mobile speed enforcement system uses radar and high-resolution digital cameras. The system identifies any vehicle traveling faster than the posted speed and captures the event.

HOW IT WORKS: MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS

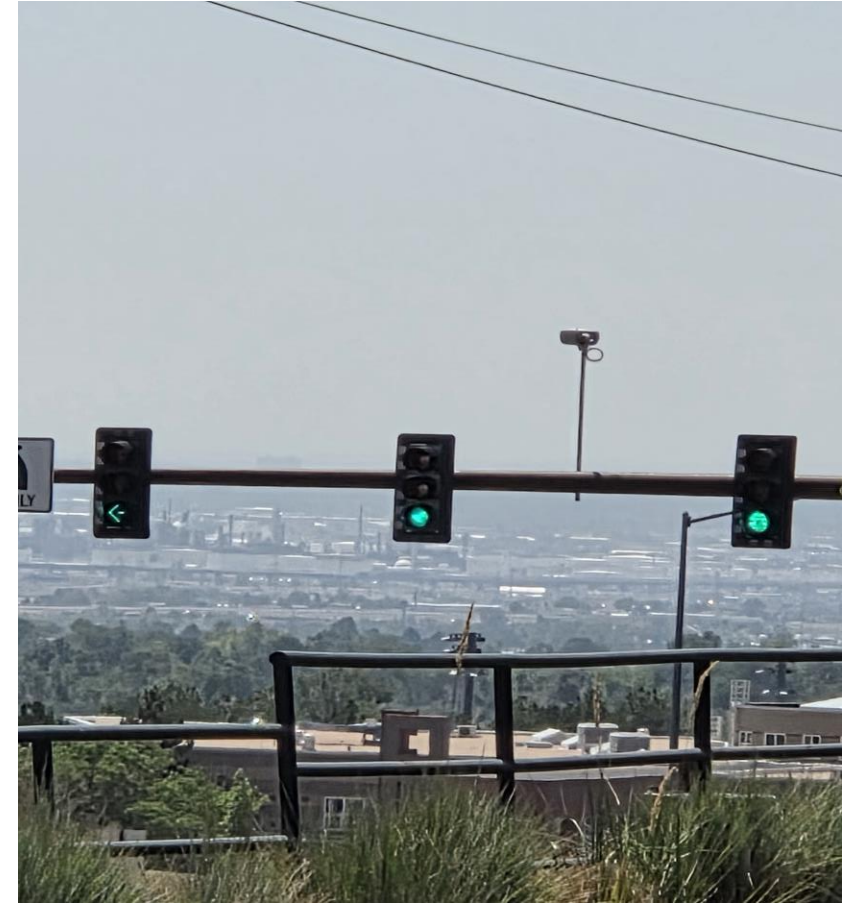
Mobile speed cameras are used to increase pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow.

- Step 1:** The system activates when a vehicle is detected traveling in excess of the posted speed limit.
- Step 2:** The system takes an image of the front of the vehicle to identify the driver.
- Step 3:** The system takes an image of the rear of the vehicle to identify the license plate.
- Step 4:** Additional data collected includes the time, date, posted speed, vehicle speed, location, lane and direction of travel.
- Step 5:** The police review the images and data captured by the system to determine whether to issue a violation notice.



Traffic Operation Cameras

- *Traffic Cameras and their purpose*
 - *Remote traffic management*
 - *Incident management*
 - *Signal verification*





Body Worn Cameras

Law enforcement use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) is heavily mandated and strictly regulated under state law (SB20-17/HB21-1250)

- Required local law enforcement agencies (municipal police and county sheriffs) and the Colorado State Patrol provide BWCs to every peace officer who interacts with the public.*
- Identified specific exceptions when BWCs are not required.*
- Provided activation and deactivation protocols.*





Body Worn Cameras



BWC Use Exceptions

- *Officers working exclusively inside jails or detention facilities with functioning video cameras.*
- *Administrative or civilian staff.*
- *Executive details (such as the Governor's security detail for the State Patrol).*
- *Officers working in courtrooms.*



Body Worn Cameras

BWC Use Exceptions

- *Officers working in an authorized undercover capacity.*
- *During casual or informal contacts with members of the public.*
- *While off duty.*





Body Worn Cameras

Mandatory Activation

- *Responding to a call for service.*
- *Initiating an interaction with a member of the public for the purpose of enforcing the law or investigating possible violations of the law.*
- *While performing searches of persons or property.*
- *In situations when the use of force is anticipated (includes jails and detention centers)*



Body Worn Cameras

Deactivation and Prohibitions

- *Routine administrative activities that do not involve interactions with the public.*
- *To avoid recording sensitive personal information unrelated to a case.*
- *During long breaks in an incident when active public contact is not occurring.*
- *During purely tactical or administrative discussions where citizens are not present.*



Body Worn Cameras

Safeguards

- *Department policy that is in line with State law.*
- *Legal consequences and disciplinary actions if an officer fails to record when required or tampering with the equipment.*
- *Monthly audits that involve supervisory review of a minimum four videos randomly selected by the BWC system.*
- *Automatic activation whenever a taser is activated, a firearm is drawn, or emergency lights are activated.*



In Car Cameras

In car video systems designed to

- Increase safety*
- Increase transparency*





In Car Cameras

Safety

- *Interior-facing camera provides a continuous, clear view of the backseat. This is vital during prisoner transports to monitor for medical emergencies attempts to hide contraband in the seats, or self-harm behaviors.*
- *Knowing that an interior camera is actively recording acts as a psychological deterrent for both sides. It often de-escalates aggressive behavior from individuals in custody and reinforces professional conduct for the transporting officer.*
- *If an officer is ambushed or assaulted inside the patrol vehicle, the interior camera captures the immediate tactical environment, providing crucial evidence of the threat level and the officer's defensive actions.*





In Car Cameras

Transparency

- *False claims of misconduct, inappropriate behavior, or excessive force during transport are incredibly costly and damage community trust. Interior video provides an objective, unassailable record of exactly what transpired inside the cabin.*
- *A comprehensive dash camera system captures the entire timeline of an arrest—from the initial traffic stop (forward-facing) to the suspect being secured and transported (interior-facing).*
- *Reviewing interior footage allows supervisors to audit tactics, ensuring that search protocols prior to transport were followed correctly and that safety belts were properly secured, turning real-world footage into actionable training material.*





Emerging Technologies

- *Drone As First Responder (DFR)*
- *Drone Detection*
- *Real Time Crime Centers*



Drone As First Responder

What is DFR

- *Strategically placed drone docking stations to support citywide deployment.*
- *A tool that is a “force multiplier” that helps address operational challenges*
 - *Enhance situational awareness by providing an aerial perspective*
 - *Assist in locating victims, lost or missing individuals*
 - *Keep public safety personnel available for emergencies*
 - *Allow more opportunities for officers to focus on community concerns*





Drone Detection

City Wide Airspace Security

- *Monitor Live Drone Flights*
- *Identify Drone Flight Data*
- *Monitor Multiple Geographic Areas*
- *Provide Real Time Alert Notifications*





Real-Time Crime Centers

- *Centralized Hub that ingests and analyzes information in real time to support field operations as incidents unfold.*
- *Helps solve crime more quickly.*
- *Respond to situations with greater preparedness.*





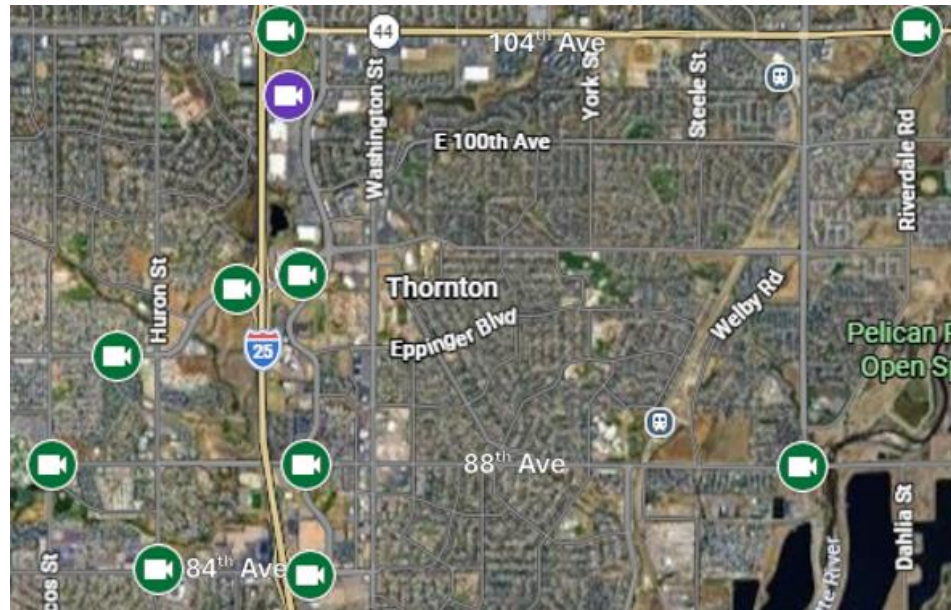
Automatic License Plate Readers

The Thornton Police Department has been using since 2019 and expanded in 2022.

19 Stationary Cameras (Green)

7 Mobile Cameras

2 Businesses (Purple)





Automatic License Plate Readers

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology provides automated detection of:

- *License Plate Numbers*
- *Vehicle Descriptors (Make, Body Style, Color)*
- *Vehicle Identifiers (Top Rack, Back Rack, Bumper Stickers, Window Stickers, Toolbox)*
- *30 Day Retention*





Automatic License Plate Readers

ALPR Use by the Thornton Police Department

- Alert function notifies law enforcement when a specific license plate enters our community near a camera*
- Searches that can be conducted by law enforcement related to specific enforcement goal (precludes immigration and protective health care activities)*





Automatic License Plate Readers

Alert Function

- *Hotlist*
 - *Colorado Crime Computer (Missing Persons, Individuals with warrants, Stolen Vehicles)*
 - *National Crime Computer (Missing Persons, Individuals with warrants, Stolen Vehicles)*
 - *Amber Alerts (License plates associated with missing children)*
- *Custom Hotlist (Alerts created by investigators for specific investigations)*



Automatic License Plate Readers

Searches

- *Specific Plate Numbers*
- *Partial Plate Numbers*
- *Generic Vehicle Descriptors*
- *Requires Offense Type*
- *Reason*
 - *Alert Related (Nothing required in Case Number box)*
 - *Call For Service (Enter CFS in Case Number Box)*
 - *Case Investigation (Enter CR in Case Number Box)*
 - *Fugitive of Justice (Enter Warrant # or CR#)*
- *Case Number*

The screenshot shows a dark-themed web interface for searching license plate data. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a dropdown arrow, and a notification bell icon with the number '0'. Below this is a section titled 'Investigative Purpose' with a question mark icon. It contains two input fields: 'Offense Type *' with a dropdown menu showing 'Enter offense type', and 'Case Number' with a text input field showing 'Enter case number'. A note '*Required Field' is placed between these fields. Below them is a 'Reason' section with a text input field showing 'Enter search reason'. The next section is 'Vehicle Details' with a car icon. It includes a 'License Plate' input field showing 'Enter license plate' and a 'Plate State' dropdown menu showing 'Any'. Below these are three checkboxes: 'Include Partial Matches', 'Nationwide Lookup', and 'CO Lookup', each with an information icon. At the bottom is a 'Vehicle Fingerprint' section with a text input field showing 'Enter body, make, color, etc' and a dropdown arrow. A filter icon is located at the bottom right of the form.



Automatic License Plate Readers

Searches Results Limited To

- Still image of the matching license plate*
- Still image of the vehicle the license plate was on*
- Body, Make, Color*
- Date and Time the image was captured*
- The organization the ALPR belongs to*
- The name of the device the captured the image*
- The location of the device that captured the image*





Automatic License Plate Readers

Safeguards

- *Department policy limiting the use of ALPR technology to official and legitimate law enforcement business*
- *The system denies access to our data for any searches related to immigration enforcement or reproductive care*
- *The system prevents federal agencies from even requesting access to Thornton Police ALPR Data*
- *Only evidence in a criminal or civil action will be retained beyond the department's 30-day retention period*



Automatic License Plate Readers

Safeguards

- *Weekly audits are conducted to verify that searches are conducted within policy and have a legitimate law enforcement purpose*
- *System built in audit assistant tool that identifies unusual or outlier search patterns*
 - *Searches beyond a 30-day timeframe*
 - *Multiple case numbers for the same plate*
 - *Single-user repeatedly searching a particular plate*
 - *Exclusive external network searches*
 - *Repeated narrow time window searches of a particular plate*



Automatic License Plate Readers

Department Transparency Website (<https://www.thorntonpd.org/cameras>)

- *Why we use automated license plate reader cameras.*
- *How automated license plate reader cameras work.*
- *Link to our department policy*
- *Flock transparency portal*
 - *The number of cameras in use*
 - *Number of System Searches*
 - *Number of vehicles detected*
 - *List of agencies granted access to Thornton data*

