



## A Red Light for Red Light Cameras

In 1998, the City of Omaha adopted an ordinance for red light cameras. Soon after, Senator Ernie Chambers **filed a lawsuit against the City of Omaha** stating that the ordinance was **“invalid and unconstitutional.”** The ordinance was struck down and since then, the City Law Department has advised Mayors and City Councils that the **“legislature would have to authorize the City of Omaha to adopt this kind of ordinance.”** No allowances for automated enforcement have been passed by the Legislature.

### ACLU Stance on Red Light Cameras

The ACLU and the Nebraska chapter of the ACLU continuously oppose any automated enforcement due to issues of **due process, fairness, and privacy.**

**It is our right as citizens, drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and all road users to feel SAFE on our STREETS.**

### The Problem

**Red Light Running is a problem nationwide and in the City of Omaha.**

According to the **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety**, in 2020:

- **928 people were killed** in crashes that involved red light running
- Half of those killed were pedestrians, cyclists, or people in other vehicles hit by the driver who ran the red light
- **An estimated 116,000 people were injured** in crashes that involved red light running
- **Seven people have died so far this year** (as of October 2022) **in Omaha due to a crash involving someone running a red light.**

Red light cameras are considered **“automated enforcement.”** This type of enforcement may be safer than face-to-face enforcement but due to how some programs are run, it may not be fair.

### SOS Project

SOS is planning projects that will **raise awareness of problem intersections** and **gather data** to share with citizens, advocates, and leaders.

One project would be a **city-wide red light audit** where we **gather data by tallies and video**, all while raising awareness of dangerous intersections. This data will be presented to city leaders to **clarify the problem and to demand a change.** Please reach out if you are interested in participating!

### Alternatives to Red Light Cameras

The City of Omaha uses the following **design and engineering strategies** to try and reduce red light violations:

- **Roundabouts** (can result in 78% reduction in fatal injuries & crashes)
- **Leading Pedestrian Intervals - LPI's** (can result in 13% fewer pedestrian-vehicle crashes)
- **Retroreflective Backplates** (can result in 15% fewer total crashes)
- **Clearance-Signal Timing** (can result in 36-50% reduction in red light running)

The City of Omaha is also currently developing **educational safety videos** and working on a Vision Zero Action Plan, which will likely highlight education.

But **we need MORE education.** To read all about Red Light Cameras, check out our long-form blog post about the topic at <https://www.safeomahastreet.com/blog/a-red-light-for-red-light-cameras>

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