

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution deeming seven (7) locations higher-crash risk sites where it is suitable to locate automated traffic safety cameras pursuant to Washington State Revised Code (RCW) 46.63.250.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468
Franz Loewenherz, Manager, 452-4077
Transportation Department

Andrew Popochock
Assistant Chief, 452-4347
Police Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**DIRECTION**

On December 2, following a Study Session discussion on the recommended list of speed safety cameras, Council directed staff to return this Resolution for final action. The Resolution approves seven camera locations for implementation in 2026.

A separate City Council Agenda Topic and Council action at this meeting will adopt an Ordinance amending Bellevue City Code Chapter 11.49, revising the City's regulations on automated traffic safety cameras to align with state law.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10564

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2024, the Legislature replaced RCW 46.63.170 with RCW 46.63.210–.260, updating and expanding provisions for automated traffic safety cameras to improve traffic safety while ensuring accountability. In response, staff recommends that the Council authorize the implementation of speed safety cameras at higher-crash-risk locations—such as hospitals, parks, school walk zones, and corridors with elevated crash risk due to speeding as described in RCW 46.63.250(3).

Using crash, speed, and citation data, and informed by multiple community outreach efforts, staff evaluated 95 candidate sites; 37 ranked highest for safety and equity, and seven are recommended for 2026 as initial deployment sites. This initial phase allows the City to raise public awareness, monitor program effectiveness, and confirm readiness for future deployments, supporting Bellevue's commitment to Vision Zero. Staff anticipate future opportunities to prioritize additional locations as the program expands.

At the December 2 Study Session, Council reviewed the camera locations recommended for 2026 implementation and directed staff to return the Resolution for action. Pending Council's adoption of the Resolution approving seven camera locations for 2026 implementation and the associated BCCA Ordinance, staff will proceed with the following timeline for the initial program expansion:

Q1 2026

- Issue Request for Proposals and select a safety camera contractor
- Council awards contract

Q2 2026

- Install advance warning signs and speed safety cameras
- Conduct public outreach to notify nearby residents and businesses

Q3 2026

- Activate cameras (30-day warning period)
- Begin issuance of citations

Q4 2026 – Early 2027

- Monitor operations and evaluate program outcomes

Staff will provide periodic updates to Council summarizing program performance and potential future expansions.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan aims to ensure that "Moving into, around and through Bellevue is safe, reliable and predictable." (Transportation Element Vision). Further policy direction includes:

- TR-31. Monitor and implement as appropriate, emerging technologies that are intended to improve mobility, safety, efficiency and people-moving capacity on existing and planned transportation network facilities.
- TR-50. Maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network.
- TR-56. Assess arterial speed limits and address concerns related to safety through appropriate speed limits, countermeasures and other techniques.

Fiscal Impact

For 2026, program expansion costs will be funded through the existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. Beginning in 2027, expenses related to camera operations, enforcement, and program administration will be covered by citation revenues. Net revenue will be reinvested in traffic safety projects—such as pedestrian, bicycle, and accessibility improvements—that reduce speeds and enhance safety.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution deeming seven (7) locations higher-crash risk sites where it is suitable to locate automated traffic safety cameras pursuant to Washington State Revised Code (RCW) 46.63.250.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10564

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A

