

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Ordinance amending Chapter 11.49 of the Bellevue City Code for consistency with state law; amending Sections 11.49.010, 11.49.020, 11.49.030, 11.49.040, 11.49.050, 11.49.080, 11.49.100; deleting Sections 11.49.060, 11.49.070; creating new Sections 11.49.001, 11.49.005, 11.49.011, 11.49.015, 11.49.090, 11.49.095, and 11.49.110; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****DIRECTION**

On December 2, following a Study Session discussion on the Bellevue City Code Amendment (BCCA), Council directed staff to bring back this Ordinance for final action. The Ordinance updates the City's regulations on automated traffic safety cameras to align with state law.

A separate City Council Agenda Topic and Council action at this meeting will adopt a Resolution approving seven speed safety camera locations for implementation in 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6892

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

In 2024, the Legislature replaced RCW 46.63.170 with RCW 46.63.210–.260, expanding and updating provisions for automated traffic safety cameras to enhance traffic safety while ensuring accountability. In response, staff recommends amendments to Bellevue City Code (BCC) Chapter 11.49 to align the City's regulations with state law. A SEPA checklist was completed for the BCC amendments, and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued on November 5.

At the December 2 Study Session, Council reviewed the recommended BCC amendments and directed staff to return the Ordinance for Council action. A strike-draft of the Ordinance is included as Attachment A. Key updates include:

- Expanding speed camera use beyond school zones to high-risk areas such as hospitals, parks, school walk zones, and locations with high crash risk due to speeding.
- Criteria to identify locations with high crash risk due to speeding, thus allowing future program expansions to occur administratively.
- Requiring safety and equity analyses when siting cameras to ensure effective and fair placement.
- Allocating 25% of net camera revenue to the Cooper Jones Safety Account after four years.
- Allowing civilian review of citations issued through automated enforcement.

- Increasing annual reporting requirements.
- Authorizing fines of \$124 for standard speeding violations and \$248 in school zones.
- Using net camera revenue—after administrative costs—to fund traffic safety projects that reduce speeds and improve safety for people walking and biking.

Pending Council’s adoption of the BCCA Ordinance and the associated Resolution identifying seven higher crash risk camera locations for 2026 implementation, staff will move forward with the initial program expansion. Staff will provide periodic updates to Council on program performance and any considerations for future expansion.

## **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 Ordinance amending Chapter 11.49 of the Bellevue City Code for consistency with state law; amending Sections 11.49.010, 11.49.020, 11.49.030, 11.49.040, 11.49.050, 11.49.080, 11.49.100; deleting Sections 11.49.060, 11.49.070; creating new Sections 11.49.001, 11.49.005, 11.49.011, 11.49.015, 11.49.090, 11.49.095, and 11.49.110; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

A. BCCA Final Strike Draft  
Proposed Ordinance No. 6892

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A