



Victoria Police

Traffic Camera Office



Mobile Road Safety Camera Policy & Operations Manual

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Mobile Road Safety Camera Program Philosophy

The philosophy behind the Mobile Road Safety Camera Program is based on well documented evidence of the relationship between speeding and road trauma. The program aims to reduce road trauma through changing driver behaviour by creating a broad community perception through general and specific deterrents that the chance of detection is so high that speeding is not worth the risk. It has been based on a range of carefully designed principles of operation.

Operating Principles of the Mobile Road Safety Camera Program

Mobile road safety cameras deployed strategically across the State on a daily basis will provide the basis for the perception that if you speed you will get caught.

General deterrents against speeding will be provided by high volume advertising about the risks of speeding and the dynamic relationship between speed and impact forces, and the visibility of mobile road safety cameras operating across the State on a daily basis.

Specific deterrents against speeding will be provided by the issuing of speed infringements to drivers who have been detected speeding.

General and specific deterrents will be aimed at influencing driver behavioural change, higher compliance with the posted speed limit, lower mean travel speeds and reduced incidence and severity of collisions across the community.

When combined with the influence of educational programs in media advertising, in schools and other key forums, changed behaviour is aimed at being sustained over time to result in higher levels of voluntary compliance.

Voluntary compliance will not be universally achievable, and a program profile will always be necessary for both general and specific deterrents.

To achieve these objectives in the most effective manner, the enforcement activity must be consistent, meaningful and applied at the high-risk times of the day.

To achieve the essential ingredient of community support and program ownership, there must be a popular belief that the enforcement is fair, impartial and objectively administered in the community interest based on the achievement of road safety objectives.

Mobile Road Safety Camera Site Selection

Mobile road safety camera site selection is a critical element of the program, and the guidelines in this Manual have been carefully developed to meet technical and legal requirements.

Mobile road safety camera use at properly selected sites will also be able to withstand public scrutiny, clearly demonstrating fair and reasonable speed enforcement in the interests of improving road safety through the enforcement of the designated speed limits.

Every road considered for evaluation as a mobile road safety camera site **MUST** fall within one of the following categories:

- a) Documented history of serious and major injury collision within the previous 3 years;
- b) Subject of a validated complaint of excessive speeds, for example feedback from general public, local councils etc;
- c) Identified by police to be a speed-related problem site;
- d) Proposed speed enforcement by non-camera devices within a specified site deemed not practicable/unsuitable.

In relation to (b) and (d) above, a written assessment must be conducted by a TMU Sergeant or delegate indicating that driver behaviour demonstrates a significant risk of speed-related collisions and in reference to (c) above, there must be substantiated intelligence gathered detailing non-compliance of the speed limit within a site and enforcement is required to change driver behaviour.

Where possible, mobile road safety camera enforcement activity should be conducted at times during which collisions have occurred or at the particular times when complaints of speed have been identified.

Correspondence received at the TCO from persons claiming that specific sites are inconsistent with Victoria Police policy, or otherwise inappropriate for camera enforcement, will be referred direct to the relevant TMU for enquiries and reply to the TCO. The TCO will provide the final response to the correspondence author. TMU's are not to respond directly.

Mobile Road Safety Camera Sites – Definition and Deployment

A mobile road safety camera site may be a single point on a road, or a stretch of road. The camera site however, must meet each of the guidelines provided in this Manual. For example, if a section of road a kilometre in length meets all of the collision evaluation criteria, but only meets the technical considerations (eg. no reflective objects in or near beam etc) in one or two locations within the site, then the approved site must be confined to those specific areas.

Where possible, sites in both metropolitan areas and regional towns should be defined by the closest intersecting streets on either side of the site with the entire length of a site being kept to a minimum. In rural areas the site length should be no greater than 5 kilometres. This will make it easier for motorists to determine (when referring to the infringement notice) where the alleged offence occurred.

Camera sites should also have a single speed zone within its perimeters where possible, to further assist the motorist as to the designated speed limit being enforced at the time of detection. This may not be practicable at some camera locations due to the location of the speed signs or default speed limit in respect of the intersecting street perimeters.

Peak Traffic Periods

Mobile road safety cameras as a general rule should not be used during peak traffic periods, particularly in the inner Metropolitan area. It is a waste of an expensive resource (and generates criticism and ridicule) to schedule camera enforcement during

peak periods when traffic volumes reduce the traffic flow to speeds lower than the posted limit.

In some extenuating circumstances, camera operation in this traffic period may be necessary. This will need to be validated by the Regional Traffic Inspector.

Target Road Classifications

Mobile road safety camera enforcement can occur on any type of road classification from freeways, to primary arterial networks through to local access streets depending on the results of site evaluations conducted by the local TMUs.

Special Occasion Sites

Regional Traffic Inspectors may personally approve mobile road safety cameras to be used for speed enforcement relating to special occasions or programmed events in areas where intelligence indicates the risk of speeding on a special occasion / event (eg. snow traffic, holiday traffic, Phillip Island Grand Prix etc.) provided the sites comply with camera policy and operational guidelines. Enforcement should only be relevant to the times of the specific occasion or event.

Mobile Road Safety Camera Sites: Physical Field Criteria

Each mobile road safety camera site being evaluated for selection and rostering **MUST** satisfy the following physical field criteria: -

Criteria 1

Sites must be safe for the camera operator, members of the public (motorists and pedestrians) and the mobile road safety camera equipment (vehicle/ tripod). Particular regard should be given to the degree of visibility and road surface approaching the direction of the camera operations. Safe access for pedestrians and driveways should also be considered when setting up the vehicle, tripod and associated cables.¹

Criteria 2

A site shall not be:

- a) On a bend in the road;
- b) Descending down unsuitable gradients or within 300 metres of the bottom of a gradient or hill **UNLESS** the site has a significant speed related collision record;

Unsuitable gradient is defined as a slope that causes a vehicle in top gear (or drive) to **increase** indicated speed against maximum deceleration (NO BRAKE OR ACCELERATION) from a commencement speed at the top of the slope at the posted limit. This must be determined by the relevant TMU.

This restriction does not apply to camera enforcement of the ascending traffic flow or where a Regional Traffic Inspector provides written approval for a particular location.

- c) Within 200 metres of a change to a speed zone, applicable to the same length of road, subject to the provision of the next paragraph.

Notwithstanding c) above, a Regional Traffic Inspector may provide written authorisation for mobile road safety camera enforcement of speed limit signs with additional information on or with the sign indicating a school zone only or a school zone with declared school days.

Before giving authority, the Regional Traffic Inspector must consider the following:-

- Media coverage and community awareness is undertaken to encourage voluntary compliance and lessen complaints;
- Whether the information on the speed limit signs applies to declared 'school days' or a 'school zone' only (no additional information regarding school

days) which does not restrict the sign to certain times or days and applies whenever it is displayed;

- The speed limit on the length of road prior to the speed limit sign indicating a school zone only or school zone with declared school days;
- The proposed site meets the Physical Field Criteria;
- There has been pro-active police presence and re-active police enforcement for a reasonable time preceding camera operations.

NOTE: Declared school days means any day that falls within a period declared by the Roads Corporation, by notice in the Government Gazette, to be school days period for the purpose of *Rule 317A of the Road Safety Road Rules 2009* but does not include a Saturday or Sunday or public holiday.

Criteria 3

Sites must not require a camera vehicle to be positioned:-

- In a way that is likely to cause any interruption to the traffic flow; or
- In contravention of the Road Safety Road Rules 2009

Consideration may be given to exercising the exemption contained in Rule 197 (1) (c) of the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 in relation to stopping on pathways, dividing strips and nature strips in a built-up area where an operator is using the vehicle for road safety camera operations.

Criteria 4

A site shall not be on or near an overpass, or facing any elevated adjacent road that may carry traffic past the radar beam.

Criteria 5

Careful **background** evaluation of each site shall be conducted for any sources of reflection located in or near the radar beam position including: -

- The possibility of vehicles entering or leaving intersections, or travelling along service roads;
- Pole mounted electricity supply transformers;

- Mobile road safety camera set-ups should not include sites where there are train lines which are obscured by dense foliage - the operator is unable to determine whether a train is present at the time a target vehicle is photographed;
- Tram and train lines: Other than above, where train lines obscured by dense foliage, the camera operator must indicate on the Incident Log of the Camera Operator's Statement the times that any photographs are taken where a tram or train is within the area of the beam;

Note: Where this occurrence is frequent, the site may be deemed as permanently unsuitable or in the case of trains, restricted to operate on the opposite side of the roadway (where the train lines would be behind the camera)

- Metals signs – house sale / auction signs and similar;
- Centre strip traffic signs such as No U Turn, No Right / Left Turn, Keep Left, posted speed limit signs and large advisory cross street signs;
- Armco road barriers or chevron signing;
- Metal bus stop shelters, public telephone booths, Australia Post letterboxes;
- Sheet metal garage doors, fences, factory walls and closely spaced iron picket fences.

Individual sites that are approved may become temporarily unusable due to parked cars or trucks. Camera operators must monitor the site continuously during operations and shut down the camera if vehicles or other reflective surfaces become stationary in or near the radar beam.

Criteria 6

Careful **foreground** evaluation shall also be conducted of each site, to ensure that there are no sources of reflection within 20 metres of the camera vehicle when positioned against the kerb or where the camera vehicle / tripod is set up on a nature strip, no reflective surfaces to be within 40 metres of the camera.

A distance of 50 metres from the camera vehicle / tripod has been calculated by the Testing Officer where very tall / large vehicles or double parked vehicles are positioned in the foreground to ensure that there are no sources of reflection.

Criteria 7

As part of their site evaluation process, camera operators shall conduct a full inspection of the camera site, in both directions, prior to commencement of the camera session. The inspection shall include checking of the speed limit applicable to the length of road allocated for camera enforcement. This may require the camera operator to drive beyond the designated site boundaries to confirm the speed limit of enforcement area. The inspection must also verify that the camera set-up and target vehicle detection is within the designated street boundaries.

At the completion of a camera session, after packing up the equipment, operators shall again drive the site to confirm the speed zone enforced. This may require the camera operator to drive beyond the designated site boundaries to confirm the speed limit of the enforcement area.

Authorised Operators

Only those mobile camera operators trained and authorised in the use of the relevant camera system are permitted to set up and use the road safety camera.

Camera Concealment / Disguise

To maintain community confidence in the mobile road safety camera initiative, it is important for the operational use of the system to be seen as fair and reasonable. Under no circumstances are camera vehicles, tripods or portable flash units (when used) to be disguised by signs, logos, breakdown of vehicle (eg. boot open or spare wheel / jack visible etc), tree branches, lamp posts, rubbish bins or any other covert means.