

Innovate: Automated Speed Enforcement

Even if we had twice times as many officers as we do today, we couldn't ensure thorough enforcement of traffic violations in a city of 180 square miles. (For a sense of scale, San Francisco has three times as many officers per capita—and a much smaller city geographically). Technological tools can help. Fourteen states, dozens of U.S. cities, and several foreign countries, deploy sophisticated cameras for automated speed enforcement (ASE), issuing tickets to the registered owners of autos traveling at excessive speeds. Researchers find [a 20% to 25% reduction of collisions and auto-related injuries where they deploy automated speed enforcement cameras](#). Targeting those cameras to our Priority Safety Corridors could have even more benefit impacts, and enable us to redeploy our scarce officers to other high-need neighborhoods.

We'd love to deploy ASE cameras in San José – as would many other California cities. We can't. The State of California prohibits their use, largely as a consequence of lobbying from powerful interests antagonistic to their deployment. On April 28th, I'll be testifying in front of the state Legislature – more specifically, before the Assembly's Transportation Committee – as the lead witness to support AB2336 from the Committee Chairwoman Laura Freidman, to enable California cities to do what so many other cities already do: use technology to make their communities safer.