

City of Bowie Testimony for HB 0619

The utilization of speed cameras is a tremendously useful force multiplier in the City of Bowie's efforts to reduce speed in our community. The City introduced this technology in our school zones partway through 2010 to mostly favorable public opinion.

The data collected over the time in use shows the effectiveness of speed cameras in reducing the incidence of speeding, and therefore the improved safety where they are used. The City's first full year of operation was in 2011 and a total of 108,798 citations were issued. One year later in 2012 that total had dropped to 45,770. That represents 63,028 fewer drivers speeding through our school zones. The total for 2020 was 16,278 citations. A comparison between 2011 and 2020 shows an 85% drop in speeding violations since the beginning of our program.

Our Police Department receives numerous requests each year from community members seeking installation of speed cameras to slow drivers in their residential neighborhoods. The passage of HB 0619 would allow the City to respond to these requests and utilize a proven strategy to address community concerns of dangerous behaviors on our residential roadways.

The City of Bowie would appreciate your support of this bill.