

My red light photo ticket was for making a left turn onto River Point Parkway from US Highway 285. This is in the city of Sheridan. When I researched the situation: I found that the yellow arrow was only 2 seconds. I then checked other arrows along Hampden and along Colorado Blvd., and found that they are all approximately 4 seconds. Making a left turn is partly a reflex, and I was anticipating 4 seconds. The unanswered question is "Why Only 2 Seconds when an unofficial, but common time is 4 seconds for high traffic situations. Had I slammed on the brakes, I would have created a significant possibility for a rear end collision. This is a true Catch 22 situation.

The city of Sheridan makes it particularly difficult to question the validity of a photo ticket. I was required to go to their courthouse at 4:30 on a Thursday. There a technician and a prosecutor reviewed the video with me. The prosecutor uses this time to demonstrate his power, attempting to intimidate. Then since I challenged to validity of the ticket I had to show up at 9:30 am on the next Monday morning to present my case to the Judge. Personally, I have a flexible schedule. But this would interfere with a typical job. It is clearly designed to encourage payment rather than question the system.

Then Monday morning the prosecutor failed to show up, and the judge dismissed all cases being heard that morning. You can make your own conclusions on why he did not show up.

Ed Shackelford 720-353-3775