



March 7, 2016

Dear Members of the Colorado House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express WalkDenver's opposition to House Bill 1143, which would eliminate all photo red light and photo speed enforcement in every Colorado community. WalkDenver is the only non-profit in the State of Colorado solely dedicated to issues of walkability and pedestrian policy. Our mission is to advocate for policies and practices that lead to a more walkable Denver.

Fifty-nine people were killed in traffic crashes on Denver's streets in 2015, 20 of whom were walking or biking. The City and County of Denver recently announced its commitment to Vision Zero and the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries. A total of 43 organizations and officials have expressed their support for Vision Zero in Denver, and WalkDenver is leading the development of a Vision Zero Coalition that will help inform and advocate for the complete, and equitable, and data-driven implementation of Vision Zero projects and policies in Denver.

Automated safety enforcement is a critical tool for achieving Vision Zero. Research has shown that red light cameras decrease severe accidents and help to create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. For example, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found large cities with red light cameras between 2004 and 2008 saw a 24 percent reduction in fatal red light running crashes compared to those without. Furthermore, the public supports the use of automated safety enforcement. According to a national survey of drivers, more than 70% were in favor of using cameras to reduce speeding and the running of red lights and stop signs (National Highway Safety Administration).

WalkDenver therefore believes the red light cameras and photo enforcement systems should remain in place to improve public safety and health. We urge the committee to not support HB 1143 in its current form.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at gosia.kung@walkdenver.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gosia Kung".

Gosia Kung
WalkDenver Founder and Executive Director.