



August 1, 2016

The Honorable Shirley M. Kitchen
Room: 463 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203003
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3003

Re: Speed Camera Technology in Philadelphia

Dear Senator Kitchen:

I write as the President of the Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance (DVSGA), a coalition of more than 200 governmental, private sector and non-profit organizations in the Greater Philadelphia tri-state region. As proponents of Smart Growth, we favor projects and initiatives that encourage the revitalization of towns and cities, discourage sprawl, and expand options in transportation and housing.

We support the automated enforcement of traffic laws through technologies like speed cameras.

When traffic laws are enforced, our streets are safer for motorists, for cyclists and for pedestrians. To further promote the revitalization and growth of cities and towns, we need to curtail reckless, high-speed driving on roads such as the Roosevelt Boulevard. This issue is all the more important today as more and more Americans elect to live in urban, walkable, mixed-use environments.

Speed cameras already have improved the safety of roads throughout the world. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that more than 140 jurisdictions currently deploy speed cameras. A compilation of speed camera research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concludes that fixed-location speed cameras reduce injury crashes by 25-30%.¹

Though critics may argue that these technologies are merely a tax on motorists, no motorist who obeys the law will be ticketed. The experience around the world is that once speed cameras are implemented, driving behavior changes and violations plummet significantly. Nevertheless, we suggest that fines be issued on a graduated scale starting with warnings and followed by increasing fines for repeat offences.

¹ Lawrence E. Decina; Libby Thomas; Raghavan Srinivasan, Ph.D.; and Loren Staplin, Ph.D., "Automated Enforcement: A Compendium of Worldwide Evaluations of Results," *U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (September 2007).

Public outreach and education are paramount since ultimately the purpose of speed cameras is to change behavior, not generate fines.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Duckworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason Duckworth

President