

Why Red Light Cameras?

On an average day, five people will be seriously injured or killed in a traffic-related crash on Chicago's streets.

Each year, Chicago has approximately 80,000 crashes:

- **20,000 resulting in injuries**
- **130 resulting in fatalities**



Vision Zero Chicago

Is the commitment and the plan to eliminate death and serious injuries from traffic crashes on Chicago's streets by 2026. As a *Vision Zero* city, Chicago follows an international movement that incorporates policies, technologies, partnerships, and data-driven practices to make our streets safer. The *Vision Zero* Chicago Action Plan presents a method for targeting resources to improve roadway design, enforce dangerous driving behaviors, and inspire a culture of safety through education and outreach through 2019.

Three-Year Action Plan Goals

- **Reduce death from traffic crashes 20% by 2020.**
- **Reduce serious injury from traffic crashes 35% by 2020.**

Crashes caused by red light running are more common than any other crash type and more likely to result in serious injury or death.

A 2013 national study revealed that crashes involving drivers who ran red lights and other traffic controls were the most common type of urban crash (22%) in the US; injuries occurred in 39% of these crashes.

Red Light Cameras

Red light camera enforcement has been credited with several important benefits, including:

- **Minimizing dangerous behaviors**
- **Reducing fatal crashes**
- **Improving traffic flow**

Impact of Cameras in Chicago

In early 2017, Northwestern University Transportation Center completed a review of Chicago's red light camera system and concluded that the system has led to a 10% reduction in injury-producing crashes and a 19% reduction in the most dangerous angle and turning crashes. They also documented a "spillover effect," meaning crashes were reduced at intersections that do not have camera enforcement.



How the Red Light Camera Program Works:

How a Potential Violation Is Captured

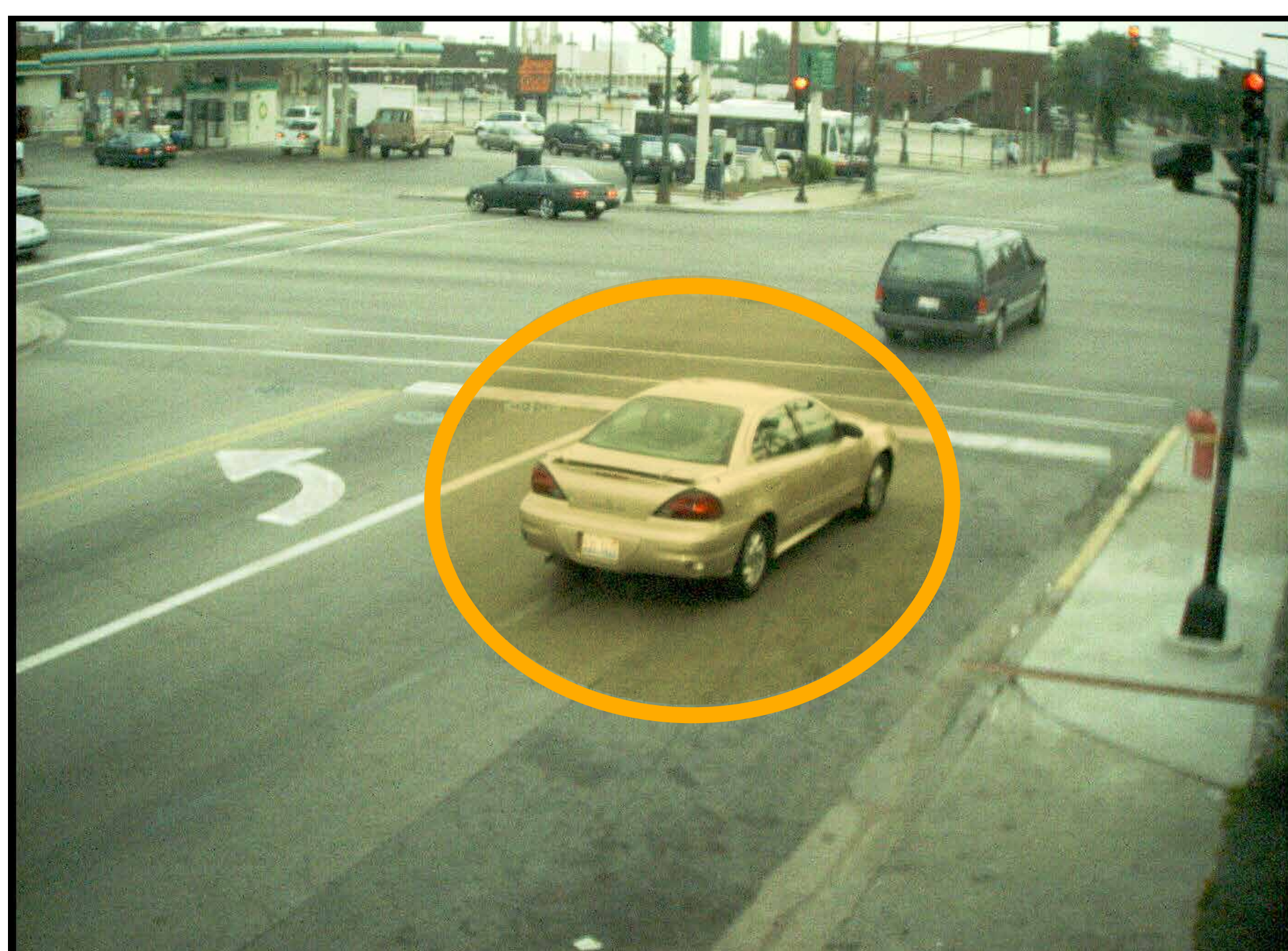
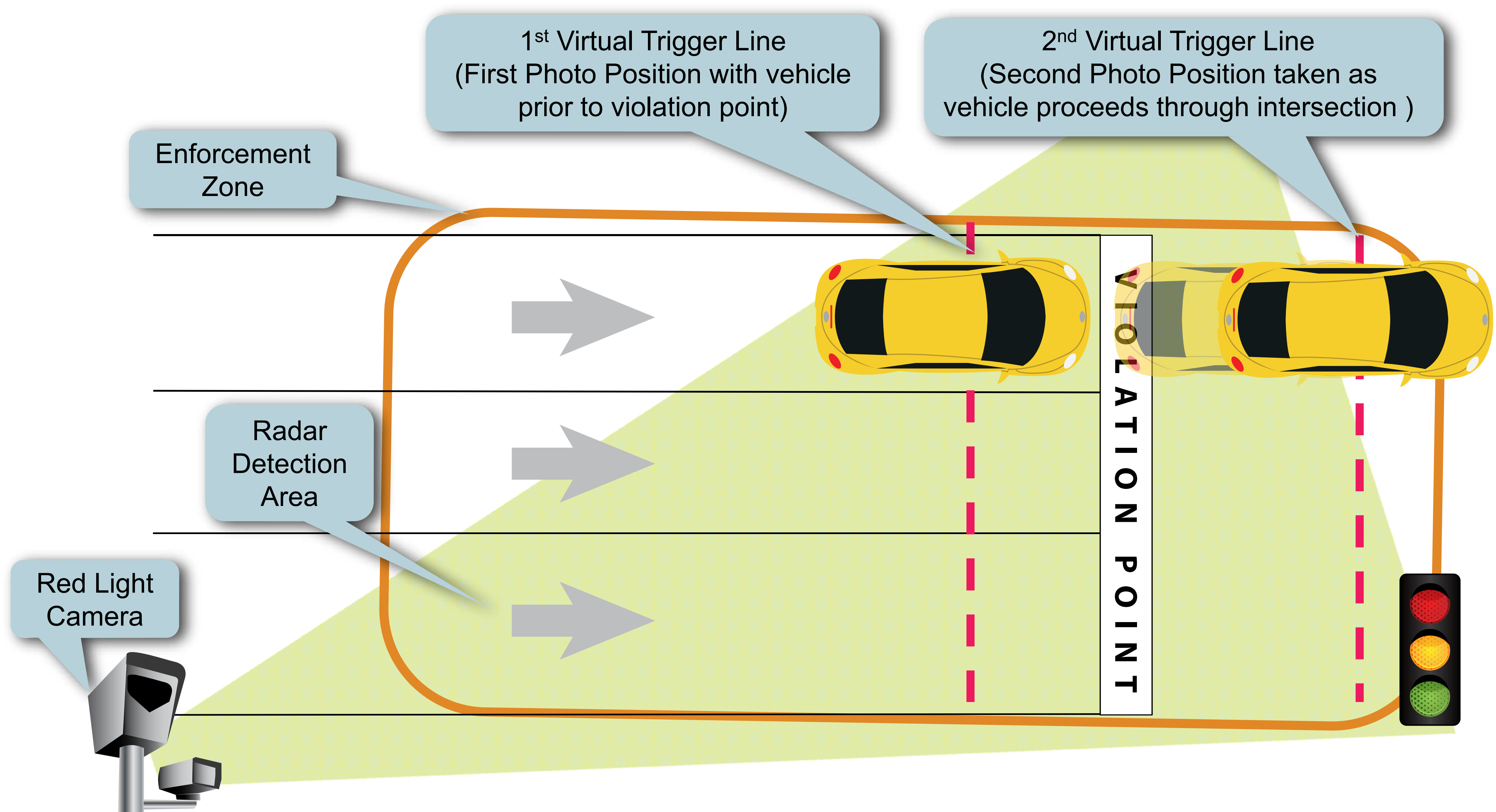
1

The camera system tracks the status of the traffic light signal and the position and speed of vehicles approaching the intersection.

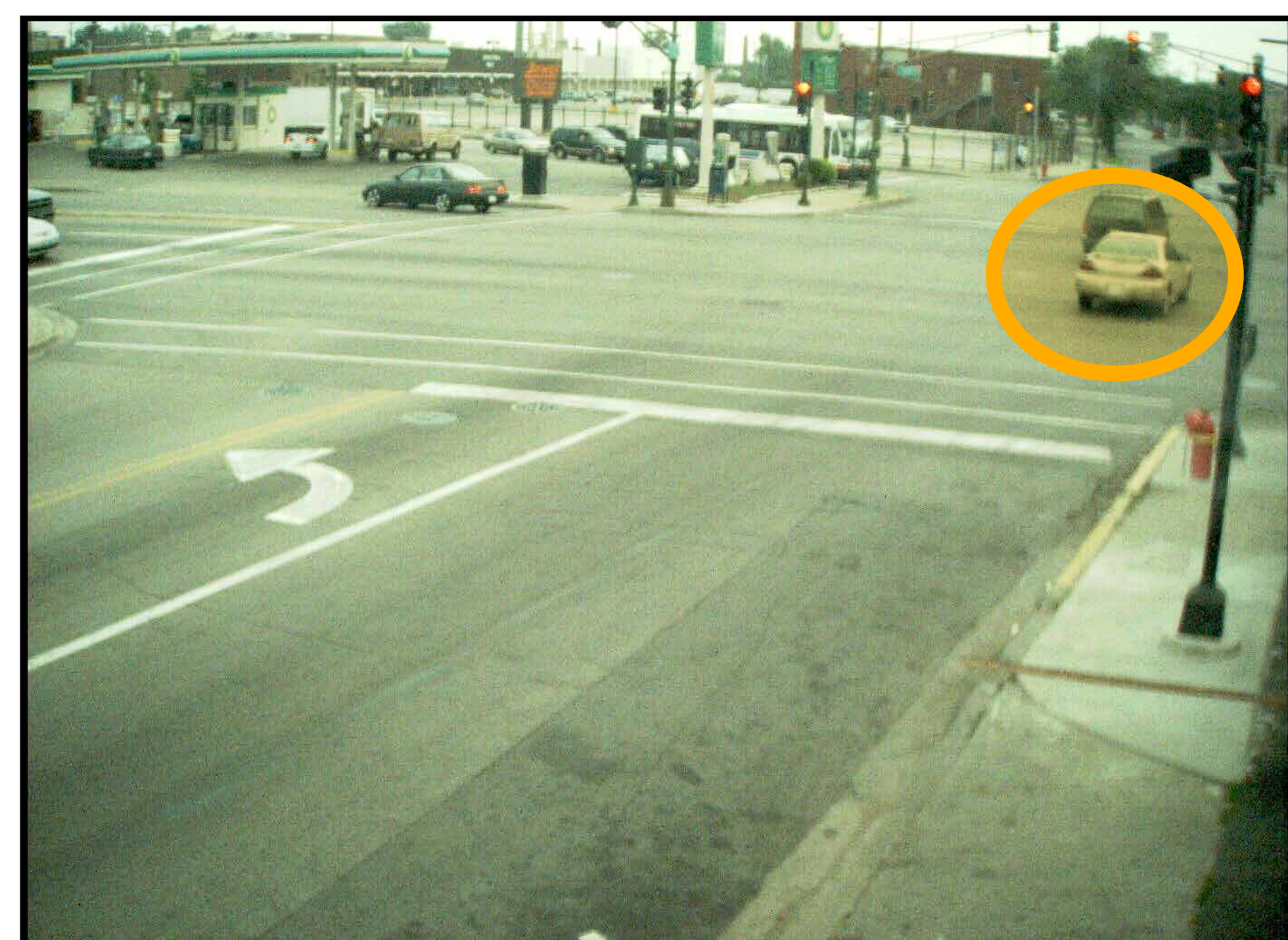
2

If the traffic signal is red and the minimum red time grace period has elapsed prior to the violation point, the system captures the event with:

- Two digital pictures (see below)
- A 12-second video



The signal has changed to red before the vehicle enters the intersection



The vehicle continues through the intersection, running the red light

** Starting on March 20, 2017, this time was increased from 0.1 to 0.3 seconds.*

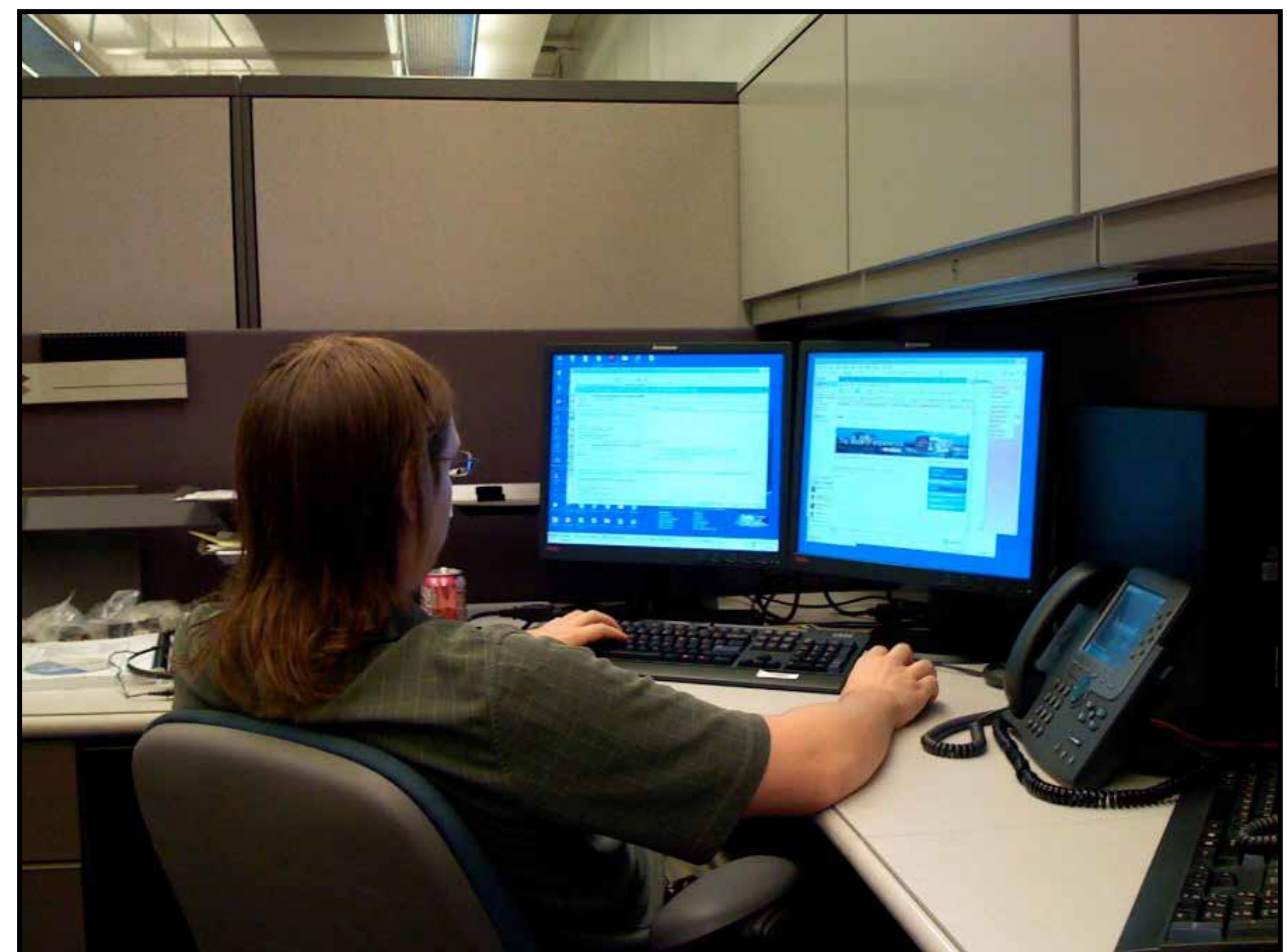
How the Red Light Camera Program Works:

How a Ticket Is Issued

3

Each violation is manually reviewed twice:

- **First, by the red light camera vendor, Xerox**
- **Second, by the City Department of Finance for official determination**



Reviewers manually zoom in to the image, crop a photo of the license plate, and record the plate number for violation issuance

4

If the violation is determined to be valid, a violation notice is mailed to the address to which the license plate is registered. Fines are currently set at \$100.



5

All red light camera tickets may be contested through the Office of Administrative Hearings.



Red Light Cameras Relocation

Northwestern University team developed a set of criteria to evaluate the safety impact of red light cameras at intersections. The criteria for evaluation are:

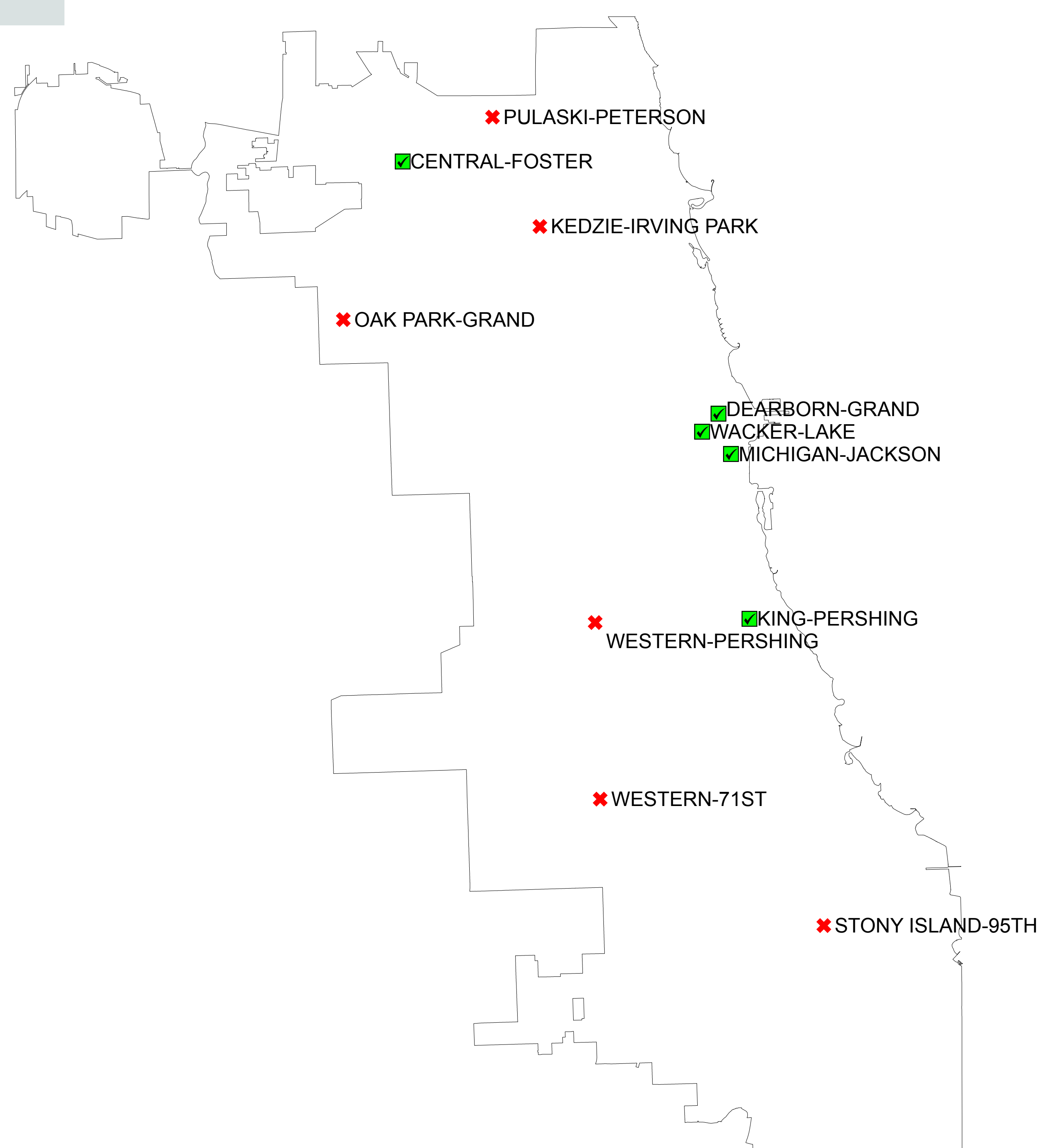
- **Number of Angle, Turning, & Rear End crashes at the intersection**
- **Volume of vehicular traffic**
- **The number of violators**
- **Other characteristics of the intersection.**

PROPOSED REMOVALS (6)

- *The data showed that these intersections registered high numbers of issued violations but no corresponding reduction in crash rates.*
- *Suggesting locations not benefiting from cameras and better placed elsewhere.*

PROPOSED NEW LOCATIONS (5)

- *Score high on the Northwestern criteria for anticipated safety benefits*
- *Has low or no rear-end injury crashes*



Red Light Camera Intersections 2017

