

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** May 12, 2012  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Police Department  
**Presentation By:** Michael Green, Traffic Sergeant

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**Summary**

**Subject:** Consideration to allow contract for automated red light enforcement with Redflex Traffic Systems to cease upon expiration of current contract

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the City Council authorize staff to allow the automated red light contract with Redflex Traffic Systems to cease upon expiration and deactivate the systems at Garden Highway and Lincoln Road and Gray Avenue and Bridge Street.

**Fiscal Impact:** Current contract cost is \$6,192.03 per monitored approach monthly (\$18,576.09 total for three approaches). General fund revenues are dependent on violation volume and the adjudication process, minus vendor's fees; however average \$8,439.43 per month. Administrative personnel costs amount to \$1,138.00 per month. Eliminating automated red light enforcement would eliminate the City's negative account balance with Redflex and allow the administrative personnel time spent by an officer to be directed elsewhere.

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**Purpose:**

Cease contractual agreement for automated red light enforcement to allow police officers who administer the system to dedicate time to other projects and end the growing deficit owed to Red Flex Traffic Systems.

**Background:**

On October 18, 2005 the City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract for automated enforcement devices (Red Light Cameras) with Redflex Traffic Systems. The current contract extension expired on 05/01/2012. Staff has been in discussions with Redflex for the past couple of months regarding the possibility of a contract extension and the potential of additional approaches as provided for in the existing contract.

Staff conducted surveys to assess the red light problem within the City and identified the most significant problems exist along the State Route Corridors. Staff has also applied unsuccessfully with Cal Trans for an encroachment permit on State Route 20 at Plumas Street for automated red light enforcement. Cal Trans has advised they will resort to making other adjustments to the intersection to address the red light collisions.

Automated red light enforcement requires a significant administrative personnel commitment. Automated red light enforcement requires Officers to review activations, run DMV records on the vehicle and registered owner, obtain a DMV photo of the registered owner and initiate a notice of violation. While those issued a notice of violation may view the video recordings via the internet, some choose to review it with the officer. The issuing officer must also appear and testify in court related to any contested violations.

**Analysis:**

**Performance History**

The City has automated enforcement on Gray Avenue at Bridge Street and Garden Highway at Lincoln Road. The intersection of Gray Avenue and Bridge Street has one approach that monitors traffic on southbound Gray Avenue. The intersection of Garden Highway and Lincoln Road has two approaches, southbound Garden Highway and eastbound Lincoln Road. Violations began being issued from Gray Avenue and Bridge Street on February 1, 2006. Citations began being issued from Garden Highway and Lincoln Road on May 1, 2007.

**Violation Data**

Red light violations have dropped significantly since the camera systems were installed at the three approaches. Since 2007, Gray Avenue at Bridge Street has experienced a 39% decrease in red light violations. In 2007, 1,311 violations were issued compared to 793 in 2011. The system for eastbound Lincoln Road at Garden Highway has experienced a 51% decrease in violations (341 in 2007 compared to 164 in 2011). Violations issued for the system monitoring southbound Garden Highway at Lincoln Road achieved an 84% reduction in red light violations since 2007 (1,197 violations issued in 2007 compared to 188 violations issued in 2011).

**Collision Data**

Collisions at the two intersections with automated red light enforcement have been reduced. There were 6 non-injury collisions and three injury collisions at Gray Avenue at Bridge Street in the five years preceding the red light camera installation. Since their installation there have been no collisions at the intersection. At Garden Highway and Lincoln Road there were two non-injury and one injury collision during the five years preceding the installation of the red light cameras. Since the red light cameras were installed there has been one non-injury collision.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The contract with Redflex allows the City to only pay what it has taken in from automated red light fine collections (cost neutrality). Cost neutrality means the City does not pay Redflex more than actual cash received. The contractual agreement indicates the City will only have to pay on this balance for twelve months after the contract is terminated from the automated red light fines collected. At the conclusion of the 12 months any balance still owed would be absorbed by Redflex.

According to the current contract the City pays \$6,192.03 per monitored approach (\$18,576.09 total per month) to Redflex.

As of March 2012, the City account balance with Redflex is (\$472,264.76). The negative balance arises from a disparity between the \$18,576.09 contractual fee associated to the three approaches and the fines collected associated to automated red light enforcement. The City also pays the communication charges (Internet) for the system to function, which amounts to about \$139.00 per month. In 2011 the City's portion of automated red light fines averaged \$8,439.43 per month. The difference between the automated red light fines collected and the monthly fees due to Red Flex and for the communications costs results in the deficit growing approximately \$10,000.00 per month. The last time the City has paid a full invoice to Redflex was in April 2008.

In 2011 police department staff dedicated nearly 245 total hours (20.4 hours a month) working on the automated enforcement program. The administrative personnel cost amounts to approximately \$13,893 a year/ \$1,158.00 per month. The administrative personnel costs are funded by the City and not recovered through the fines associated to the automated red light enforcement. The following table provides a breakdown of the activities association with the cost of running the program.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Time</b>
Reviewing Images	56 hours
Court Preparation	24 hours
Court Testimony	36 hours
Department Redflex Review	104 hours
Administration Time	25 hours
Total	245 hours/year

The camera systems at the intersections of Garden Highway at Lincoln Road and Bridge Street at Gray Avenue have completed their mission. Traffic collisions are down and red light violations have continued to decline at those locations. Based on the number of violations issued at the three approaches at a cost to the City of \$18,576.09 monthly, the program continues to add to the deficit on a monthly basis. To be fiscally sound to the public, we recommend allowing the contract for automated red light enforcement with Redflex Traffic Systems to cease with the expiration of the contract and deactivation/removal of the automated red light equipment at the two intersections.

**Alternatives:**

1. Allow the current contract to cease upon the expiration May 30, 2012.

In this option, any fines coming to the City as a result of photo red light enforcement would be dispersed to Redflex for 12 months ending June 1, 2013. Administrative time spent by Officers related to automated red light enforcement may be dedicated elsewhere.

2. Maintain all of the current approaches.

In this alternative, a monthly deficit still exists and will continue to accumulate along with the personnel costs associated to automated red light enforcement.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council authorize staff to allow the contract for automated red light enforcement with Redflex Traffic Systems to cease upon expiration and deactivate the systems at Garden Highway at Lincoln Road and Bridge Street at Gray Avenue.

Prepared By:

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