



BELMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donald J. Mattei, Chief of Police

July 27, 2009

Mr. Farshid Brojeni
Caltrans District 4 - Office of Permits
111 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

**Re: Ralston Avenue at SR 82 (El Camino Real) and Ralston Avenue at Old County Road
Encroachment Permit – Justification and Assignment of Agent**

Dear Mr. Brojeni:

The City of Belmont is requesting an encroachment permit to allow the installation of red light camera systems at the listed intersections to enforce red light violations as authorized by section 21455.5 of the California Vehicle Code. Additionally, we are assigning Redflex Traffic Systems as our agent and we are giving Redflex authority to work with Caltrans directly in acquiring the necessary encroachment permits to install red light cameras at these Caltrans owned and maintained traffic signalized intersections. Redflex will be responsible for payment of any fees to Caltrans associated with acquiring these encroachment permits and will provide all the necessary insurance coverage during the installation of the red light cameras.

The enforcement of red light violations using camera systems is authorized by section 21455.5 of the California Vehicle Code. The intersections of Ralston Avenue and SR-82 (El Camino Real) and Ralston Avenue & Old County Rd warrant the installation of a photo enforcement system for several reasons as outlined below.

The intersection of Ralston Avenue & SR-82 currently, handles approx. 29,722 vehicles per day on Ralston Avenue and approx. 34,000 vehicles per day on SR-82.

The adjacent intersection, Ralston Avenue & Old County Road handles approx. 32,352 vehicles per day on Ralston Avenue and approx. 11,591 vehicles per day on Old County Road. While this intersection is not a State Highway, it is being included in this request due to the fact that the traffic signal controllers at this intersection are maintained by Caltrans. This is due to its close proximity (approx. 100') to and the synchronization of these signals with the traffic signals at Ralston Avenue & SR-82.

*Do we have application
for this location?
Mj/28*

"A Tradition of Service"

Traffic related issues continue to be one of the major concerns of the residents of Belmont. Traffic volume continues to increase while Police Department resources to monitor and regulate traffic have been reduced. One of the most hazardous traffic violations is red light running. According to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), each year red light violations cause as many as 200,000 crashes and 1000 fatalities. Red light enforcement is a priority to the Belmont Police Department, specifically at the intersections of Ralston Ave & SR-82 and Ralston Ave & Old County Rd. However, the physical layout of both intersections precludes effective enforcement of the red light by officers in patrol cars. As a result, monitoring & enforcement can only be accomplished by officers on motorcycles.

Currently, there are two officers assigned to the Traffic Unit as motor officers. Due to staffing issues, frequently one or both of these officers are required to cover a patrol beat, which takes them away from dedicated traffic enforcement. In addition, other areas with high traffic volume in the City need to be covered by the motor officers, which further reduces their ability to monitor/enforce at the intersections of Ralston Ave and SR-82 and Ralston Avenue & Old County Rd.

The following is the citation data for both intersections for the period of 2005-2008

Ralston Ave & SR-82

2005 – 102 citations

2006 – 82 citations

2007 – 61 citations

2008 – 35 citations

Ralston Ave & Old County Rd

2005 – 34 citations

2006 – 11 citations

2007 – 12 citations

2008 – 17 citations

These violations directly affect the quality of life in our community and create a serious danger to the motoring public and law enforcement officers. Red light running is a serious issue impacting the safety of our citizens.

A review of SWITRS collision data by the Belmont Department of Public Works (DPW) showed 23 collisions in the intersection of Ralston Ave & Old County Rd, for the five year period of 2003 - 2008 (note, only 22 appear on the attached Traffic Collision History Report).

A similar review of SWITRS data for the intersection of Ralston Ave & SR-82 provided to be more problematic and internal data from the Police Department was used. Based on this data, there were 19 collisions in the intersection of Ralston Ave & SR-82, for the three year period of 2006-2008.

While the Belmont Police Department diligently endeavors to make the streets safe, a red light camera program would provide 24 hour, seven days a week monitoring/enforcement where

violations and crashes most frequently occur. Collisions involving red light running are most likely to result in injuries and significant property damage. It is often more dangerous for a police officer to apprehend and cite a red light runner because the officer must also run the red light to pursue the violator.

Between February 14th, 2006 and September 25, 2007 six publicly presented staff reports and a public hearing was held on the matter during the regularly scheduled meetings of the Belmont City Council.

On February 1, 2007 Redflex Traffic Systems conducted video intersection analysis at the following intersections/approaches for a 12 hour period (6:00AM to 6:00 PM). A summary of the results are as follows:

Eastbound Ralston Avenue at SR-82 (El Camino Real)

- 2 Left Turn Violations
- 10 Straight Through Violations
- 16 Right Turn Violations

This totals 28 red-light violations in the 12-hour survey period or 56 in a 24-hour period

Westbound Ralston Avenue at Old County Rd

- 11 Straight Through Violations
- 67 Right Turn Violations

This totals 78 red light violations in the 12-hour survey period or 156 in a 24-hour period

The yellow light phase at both intersections was determined to be in compliance with Caltrans specifications.

On September 25, 2007, the Belmont City Council held a public hearing, regarding the implementation of a photo red light enforcement program. At the conclusion of that hearing, the Council authorized implementation of a Photo Red Light Enforcement Program and designated these intersections as the initial locations for photo enforcement. On February 12, 2008 the City of Belmont entered into a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems as the vendor for the project.

These intersections warrant the installation of a red light camera enforcement system, for the following reasons outlined in a February 12, 2008 resolution by the Belmont City Council:

WHEREAS, traffic related calls make up the number one complaint received by the Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, traffic volume continues to increase while Police Department resources to monitor and regulate traffic have been reduced. Currently, there are two officers assigned to the Traffic Unit as motor officers and due to continuing staffing issues, frequently one or both of these officers are required to cover a patrol beat, which takes them away from dedicated traffic enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, automated red light photo enforcement systems have proven to be an effective enforcement and education tool, allowing for the redeployment of limited police personal resources to other locations, while maintaining an enforcement presence at signal controlled intersections; and,

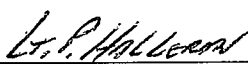
WHEREAS, six publicly presented staff reports and a public hearing were held on the matter, the City Council approved the implementation of an automated red light photo enforcement program and selected Redflex Traffic Systems as the vendor.

In summary, these intersections warrant the installation of red light camera enforcement systems for the following reasons:

- Ralston Ave, is the main arterial roadway into and through the City of Belmont.
- This well traveled roadway traverses business and residential areas and connects US-101 to both SR-92 and I-280.
- Ralston Ave, is the main access for the majority of schools in Belmont. There are a 4-yr university, private high-school and a public middle school on Ralston Ave, with six other schools within a one mile radius of Ralston Ave.
- SR-82 (El Camino Real) is the 3rd most traveled north-south roadway through San Mateo County after US-101 and I-280. It is the most heavily traveled north-south roadway in the City of Belmont.
- The video survey of the intersections revealed a significant number of red light violations in both the intersections of Ralston Ave & SR-82 (56 per day) and Ralston Ave & Old County Rd (156 per day).
- Monitoring /enforcement at the subject intersections is difficult due to their physical layouts and can only be accomplished by officers on motorcycles. These officers only have limited time to conduct enforcement at the subject intersections. Based on the citation data, officers are only able to cite less than one violator per day, on average, of the 56 violations per day, which occur at Ralston Ave & SR-82. Similarly, officers are only able to cite less than one violator per day, on average, of the 156 violations per day, which occur at Ralston Ave & Old County Rd.

I you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly. We look forward to working with Caltrans on this important traffic safety project.

Sincerely;



Lieutenant Patrick Halleran
Support Services Division

**City of Belmont
Traffic Engineering Department**

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**Traffic Collision History Report
Midblock Collisions**

Street: RALSTON AVENUE
 Mit 1: STATE HIGHWAY 82
 Mit 2: OLD COUNTY ROAD

Date Range Reported: 1/1/2003 - 12/31/2008

Report No.	Date Time	Dist/Dir	Location	Type of Collision	Motor Veh. Involved With	DOT1	MPC 1	DOT2	MPC 2	PCF	# Inj	# Kld
377326	1/3/03 Improper Turning	64 0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNT Y ROAD	Sideswipe	Other Motor Vehicl	Other Motor Vehicl	East	East	Changing Lanes	East		Proceeding Straigh
377326	13:45	West of		e					t			
372719	3/27/03 Improper Turning	32 0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNT Y ROAD	Sideswipe	Other Motor Vehicl	Other Motor Vehicl	East	East	Changing Lanes	East		Proceeding Straigh
372719	07:08	West of		e					t			
3748112	4/1/03 Improper Turning	0 0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNT Y ROAD	Sideswipe	Other Motor Vehicl	Other Motor Vehicl	West	West	Changing Lanes	West		Proceeding Straigh
3748112	17:27	In Int.		e					t			
379895	6/26/03 Improper Turning	0 0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNT Y ROAD	Broadside	Other Motor Vehicl	Other Motor Vehicl	East	East	Making Left Turn	West		Proceeding Straigh
379895	17:30	In Int.		e					t			
368720	8/24/03 0	0 0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNT Y ROAD	Hit Object	Fixed Object	West	West					Making Right TurnImproper Turning
368720	17:38	In Int.										
372178	8/28/03 Unsafe Speed	0 0	OLD COUNTY ROAD/RALSTON AVENUE	Rear-End	Other Motor Vehicl	Other Motor Vehicl	North	North	Slowing/Stopping	North		Stopped in Road
372178	19:45	In Int.		e								
3022459	9/21/03	0	OLD COUNTY ROAD/RALSTON	Overtumed	Non-Collision	North	North					Proceeding StraighDriving Under

**City of Belmont
Traffic Engineering Department**

**Traffic Collision History Report
Midblock Collisions**

Street: RALSTON AVENUE
Limit 1: STATE HIGHWAY 82
Limit 2: OLD COUNTY ROAD

Date Range Reported: 1/1/2003 - 12/31/2008

Report No.	Date Time	Dist/Dir	Location	Type of Collision	Motor Veh. Involved With	DOT1	MPC 1	DOT2	MPC 2	PCF	# Inj	# Kid
307830	10/23/05 Auto R/W Violation	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY Y ROAD	Broadside	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	North Proceeding Straigh	North Proceeding Straigh	Proceeding Straigh	South Proceed		
344791	11/15/05 Improper Turning	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY Y ROAD	Rear-End	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	West Making Right Turn West	West Making Right Turn West	Proceeding Straigh			
588895	4/24/06 Traffic Signals and Sign	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY Y ROAD	Broadside	Motor Vehicle on Other Roadway	Motor Vehicle on Other Roadway	East Proceeding Straigh	East Proceeding Straigh	Proceeding Straigh	North Proceed		
700361	7/4/06 Unknown	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY Y ROAD	Sideswipe	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	East Making Left Turn West	East Making Left Turn West	Proceeding Straigh			
755765	7/26/06 Traffic Signals and Sign	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY Y ROAD	Broadside	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	North Proceeding Straigh	North Proceeding Straigh	Proceeding Straigh	West Proceed		
309261	11/17/06 Unsafe Starting or Backing	0	OLD COUNTY ROAD/RALSTON AVENUE	Rear-End	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	South Slowing/Stopping South	South Slowing/Stopping South	king	Stopped in Road		
134363	4/10/07	0	RALSTON AVENUE/OLD COUNTY	Rear-End	Other Motor Vehicle	Other Motor Vehicle	West Proceeding Straigh	West Proceeding Straigh		West Stopped		

City of Belmont
 Traffic Engineering Department

Traffic Collision History Report
 Midblock Collisions

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Street: RALSTON AVENUE
 Unit 1: STATE HIGHWAY 82
 Unit 2: OLD COUNTY ROAD

Date Range Reported: 1/1/2003 - 12/31/2008

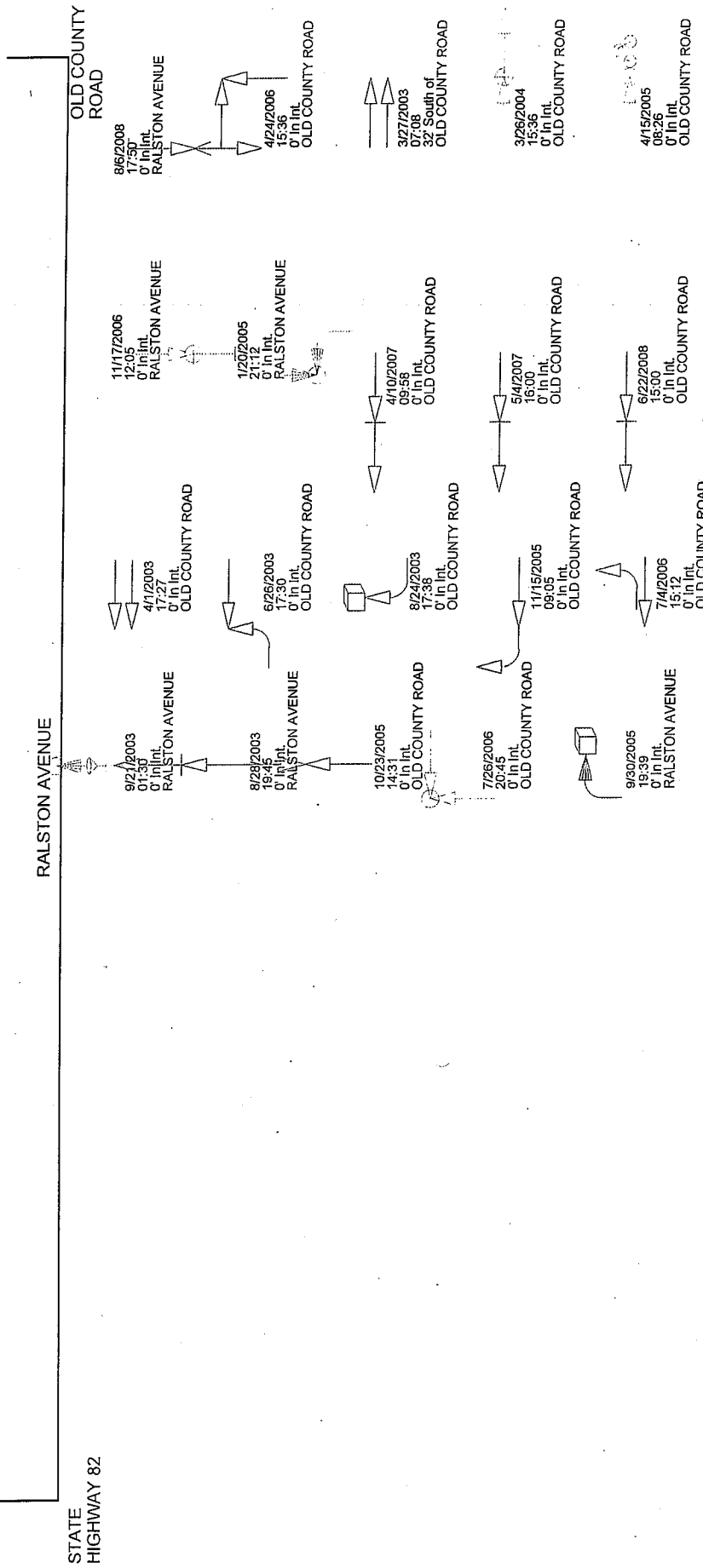
Report No.	Date Time	Dist/Dir	Location	Type of Collision	Motor Veh. Involved With	DOT1	MPC 1	DOT2	MPC 2	PGF	# Inj	# Kld
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Total Number of Collisions: 22 Segment Length: 0.05 miles (279')

City of Belmont
Traffic Engineering Department

Midblock Collision Diagram
Segment Length: 279'

RALSTON AVENUE
Limit 1: STATE HIGHWAY 82
Limit 2: OLD COUNTY ROAD
Date Range: 1/1/2003 To: 12/31/2008



Number of Collisions

16 Property Damage Only
6 Injury Collisions
0 Fatal Collisions
22 Total Collisions
 Collisions Not Plotted: 2

Legend

↔	Moving Vehicle	🚶	Pedestrian
⊥	Stopped Vehicle	📦	Fixed Object
↶	Backing Vehicle	🚲	Bicycle
↷	Ran Off Road	🍷	DUI
⋯	Movement Unknown	👤	Injury
↘	Right Turn	☹	Fatal
↙	Left Turn		
↔	Sideswipe		
↘	Day		
↙	Night		

Color Legend - Highest Degree of Injury

Maroon = Fatal

Magenta = Severe Injury

Bright Green = Other Visible Injury

Medium Blue = Complaint of Pain

Red = Property Damage Only

Settings Used For Query

Parameter

Setting

Limit 1

Do Not Include Intersection Related

Limit 2

Include Intersection Related

Intermediate Intersections

Include Intersection Related