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News Release

CITY CONSIDERS RED-LIGHT CAMERAS FOR ACCIDENT-PRONE INTERSECTIONS

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Drivers who are tempted to breeze through a red light may want to start applying the brakes in West Carrollton.

The West Carrollton police department is working with RedFlex Traffic systems to assess six of the busiest intersections in the city for installation of new red light enforcement cameras. The city is also considering speed enforcement camera systems as well.

There is no cost to the city for installation or maintenance of the cameras. Instead, the city would share a portion of collected citation fees with Red Flex Traffic Systems.

The intersections currently under review include:

- E. Central Avenue and S. Alex Road;
- E. Dixie Drive and S. Alex Road;
- E. Dixie Drive and Alex-Bell Road;
- S. Alex Road and King Richard Parkway;
- S. Alex Road and Watertower Lane;
- Kimberly Lane and S. Alex Road.

“The objective of the project is to reduce the number of traffic crashes,” according to Police Chief Rick Barnhart. Approximately 126 of the 403 total West Carrollton vehicle accidents in 2007 occurred at these intersections.

“The police department will continue to patrol these intersections. However it takes three officers to effectively run traffic enforcement at a busy intersection,” Barnhart said. This system would be a supplement to the current traffic enforcement program.

In addition to reducing traffic crashes at the busiest intersections, the police department hopes that cameras will modify driver behavior throughout the city. “If drivers start

slowing down at these locations, perhaps that will carry over to other situations too,” said Doug Woodard, deputy police chief.

Once approved by city council, the new camera system would take a short video clip of the vehicle violations at each intersection. One West Carrollton police officer would make daily reviews of all violations and citations would be issued through the mail.

“However, we will be looking for the blatant red-light runners, not vehicles that are in the intersection already, waiting to make a turn,” he said.

After the installation of the system, signs will be posted at each intersection notifying drivers about new cameras. “We plan on having an initial, 30-day grace period in which drivers will be issued warnings instead of citations,” Barnhart said.

Other cities in Ohio that use the automated enforcement systems include Dayton, Columbus, Northwood, Springfield Toledo and Trotwood. Red-light citation fees typically range from \$90 to \$120, according to Barnhart.

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For media interviews, call **Rick Barnhart** or **Doug Woodard** at (937) 847-4668.