



Drivers Take Notice: **Speed Cameras Are Coming To Improve Speed Limit Compliance Within St. Michaels School Zones**



In an effort to enhance safety within St. Michaels School Zones, the Town of St. Michaels has approved the use of Automated Speed Enforcement Systems. In October 2009 the State of Maryland approved the use of these systems which are currently being utilized in many communities throughout Maryland. After a four year period the Montgomery County program has reported a 30% reduction in collisions and a 40% reduction in collisions causing injury or death near sites using speed cameras.

The speed enforcement cabinet will be equipped with a radar camera programmed to capture a series of photographs of vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 12 mph. These digital images will be used to identify the vehicle's registered owner and will appear on the citation along with a \$40 fine. Superimposed on each photograph is the date, time, location and speed of the vehicle when the violation occurred. This citation is not considered a "moving violation." It is a civil citation holding the registered owner or lessee responsible for the violation (similar to a parking ticket). No points will be assessed for this type of violation and it will not raise your insurance rates.

A common misconception is that speed cameras monitor all vehicles within the enforcement zone. In reality, the cameras only record vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 12 mph. Law abiding citizens are unaffected by this type of enforcement because it is only activated by vehicles passing the camera at an excessive rate of speed.

Frequently Asked Questions

• What do I do if I receive a citation and can I appeal it?

If you receive a citation in the mail, you may choose to pay it or to appeal it.

- Payments are accepted online, by phone, or by mail. For more detailed instructions on how to pay, please refer to the back of your citation or call the St. Michaels Photo Enforcement Customer Service Call Center at 1-833-600-6400 between 9AM and 4PM Monday through Friday.
- You may request to appear in District Court by returning the completed form at the bottom of your citation at least five (5) days prior to the "Due Date" shown on the front of the notice. Your request should be mailed to **PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, PO BOX 33, BEDFORD PARK, IL 60499-0033**. You will be notified by mail of the court date. If you do not receive a notice within 30 days, call the St. Michaels Photo Enforcement Customer Service Call Center at 1-833-600-6400.

• What if I wasn't driving the car?

In addition to your testimony in court, Maryland law requires you to provide a letter to the District Court that states that the person named in the citation was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation. The letter must be (1) sworn to or affirmed by you, and (2) mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested. Include in the letter all corroborating evidence. Send your letter in an envelope marked "SPEED CAMERA-NOT THE DRIVER" to: **PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, PO BOX 33, BEDFORD PARK, IL 60499-0033**.

• Where do I call if I have questions about the Speed Camera Program?

Contact the St. Michaels Photo Enforcement Call Center at 1-833-600-6400, Monday through Friday, 9AM-4PM EST.

• When and Where are the Speed Cameras being utilized in St. Michaels?

Speed Enforcement Cameras will be utilized between the hours of 6am-8pm Monday through Friday. Any streets within a ½ mile radius of a school in St. Michaels are eligible for Speed Photo Enforcement.

For Additional Information please visit www.stmichaelsmd.gov.