

City of Burleson
Policy for the Use of Revenue from PTSES
(i.e. Red Light Camera) Citations

I. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to guide the City Council in utilization of revenues from Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System (PTSES)—commonly referred to as Red Light Camera (RLC) —citations. The City Council reserves the right to act outside the guidelines of this policy when, in their sole discretion, the City Council determines it is in the City’s best interest to do so.

II. Background

In August, 2007, the City Council adopted Ordinance C-627-07 amending Chapter 78, Traffic and Vehicles, of the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances. This ordinance added Article V., Automated Red Light Enforcement, establishing the City’s right to assess a civil penalty (and other fees) against persons who operate motor vehicles in violation of the terms of the Ordinance. Section 78.158 of Article V states that revenue from civil penalties and late fees received by the City shall be deposited in a special account in the City Treasury. Section 78.158 further stipulates that the revenues may be used only to fund traffic safety programs, including pedestrian safety, public safety, intersection improvements, and traffic enforcement.

III. Eligible Uses

Within the statutory restrictions for use of these revenues, the City Council further restricts usage of these revenues to solve problems or address challenges that in the following areas:

1. Teenage Driver Safety: Programs which promote safe driving practices among young drivers 16-19 years of age.
2. Pedestrian Safety Improvements: Construction or placement of improvements which protect pedestrians and disabled people from vehicular and/or rail traffic including (but not limited to) sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks, pavement markings, and regulatory and/or informational signage.
3. Intersection Improvements: Construction or placement of improvements at vehicular or vehicular/rail intersections which improve (a) safety and/or (b) the efficient movement of traffic of all types.

With regard to 2. and 3. above, it is the policy of the City to fund uses/projects which, due to their smaller scope and cost, are not candidates for inclusion in a comprehensive capital improvement program.

The City will not use revenues to fund, or supplement funding of:

- A. any operational expenses including, but not limited to, traffic enforcement; or
- B. any form of debt.

IV. Evaluation

Within each of the eligible uses defined in III. above, the decision to utilize revenues to address a particular problem or challenge will be made after evaluating the following:

1. Urgency of need. Uses which protect life and health of citizens will have the highest priority.
2. Stakeholder support: Uses which have stakeholder support are preferred.
3. Documented Evidence: Where applicable, data, information and/or analysis which (a) substantiates the problem or challenge, and (b) validates the proposed use as a viable solution.

V. Project Selection/Budget

As part of the annual budget process, staff will compile a list of proposed uses/projects, evaluate each as described above and submit this information to the Council's Public Safety Committee for consideration. The Committee will recommend to the City Council a prioritized list of proposed uses/projects (which may include projects not originally proposed by staff). The City Council shall finalize the list of uses/projects to be funded within available revenues. These uses will be presented as a plan of work and included within the annual budget adopted by the City Council. The City Council reserves to the right to amend or revise this plan of work at any time in order to address problems or challenges within eligible use areas that, due to urgency of need, cannot be delayed.