



American
Traffic Solutions™

An Open Letter to the Citizens of College Station from American Traffic Solutions

American Traffic Solutions (ATS), the company that operates the red-light camera program in College Station and hundreds of other cities around North America, is proud to financially support the efforts of the Keep College Station Safe PAC. Our financial contributions are a matter of public record, as they should be.

The City of College Station is our customer, which also means that the citizens of College Station are our customers. We take this obligation extremely seriously, and we fully welcome the opportunity to be held accountable for the effectiveness of the products we offer. As the city's partner in public safety, we provide life-saving technology that has proven to reduce crashes and decrease the number of red-light runners across North America. Red-light violations in College Station have indisputably dropped nearly 50 percent since the safety cameras were activated. This is proof positive that driver behavior has improved, which in turn improves public safety for all the drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians who navigate College Station's roadways.

Our goal is to improve safety by reducing violations and crashes. Contrary to what you may have heard, ATS is paid a flat monthly fee in exchange for our services. Our fee is not paid per violation. Furthermore, College Station police officers review every red-light violation that is captured by our still and video cameras. The decision regarding whether a violation occurred and whether a citation should be issued is exclusively in the hands of the College Station Police Department, not ATS. Although some folks may take exception to red-light cameras – and they're well within their First Amendment protections to do so – the intersection safety cameras are unquestionably constitutional. This fact has been upheld by courts across the country, including in a landmark decision by the Seventh Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals earlier this year.

Is it appropriate for a municipality to contract with a private company to provide services? It certainly is. Municipalities contract with private businesses every day to perform services ranging from ambulance services to software maintenance, garbage collection, design of public buildings, and construction of streets and highways. Businesses like ATS that support local government are a vital part of the American economy. We create jobs and contribute to the communities in which we do business.

Because the citizens of College Station are our customers, we worked with Keep College Station Safe to determine how local voters felt about red-light cameras before deciding

if and how we would participate in the current public debate. In a scientific opinion survey conducted by a reputable Texas research firm, we learned that the overwhelming majority of registered voters in College Station support the use of red-light cameras in Aggieland. Red-light camera opponents have garnered a lot of attention, but the fact remains that they are a vocal minority.

When we saw College Station resident and mother, Emily Reiter, step forward at a City Council meeting to speak in support of red-light cameras, we offered her and other supporters our assistance. Our goal in this election has been to find ways to ensure that voters have factual, truthful information upon which to make their decision in the November 3 election. In this election, ATS has focused on ensuring that Emily, the people who agree with her and the many community leaders who support her efforts get the opportunity to have their voices heard. As College Station's partner in public safety, we consider that part of our responsibility. We will stand by the majority of citizens in any other city we serve where a vocal minority threatens the community's safety.

We believe it is our obligation to make sure that College Station voters have a full and factual airing of the issues related to red-light cameras. That's why we are proud to invest in College Station through our support of the Keep College Station Safe PAC. Whether you plan to vote against Prop. 1 because you support the cameras, or for the proposition because you want the cameras banned, ATS urges you to make your voice heard and vote on this important community issue, as well as the other significant issues that appear on the November 3rd ballot.

Thank you.

George Hittner, Vice President and General Counsel
American Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Fightin' Texas Aggie, Class of 1999

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