



City of Bellevue

Bellevue Vision Zero in Action: A Review of Speed Safety Cameras

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Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network
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Agenda



Bellevue Road Safety Trends



Vision Zero Policies, Plans, and Programs

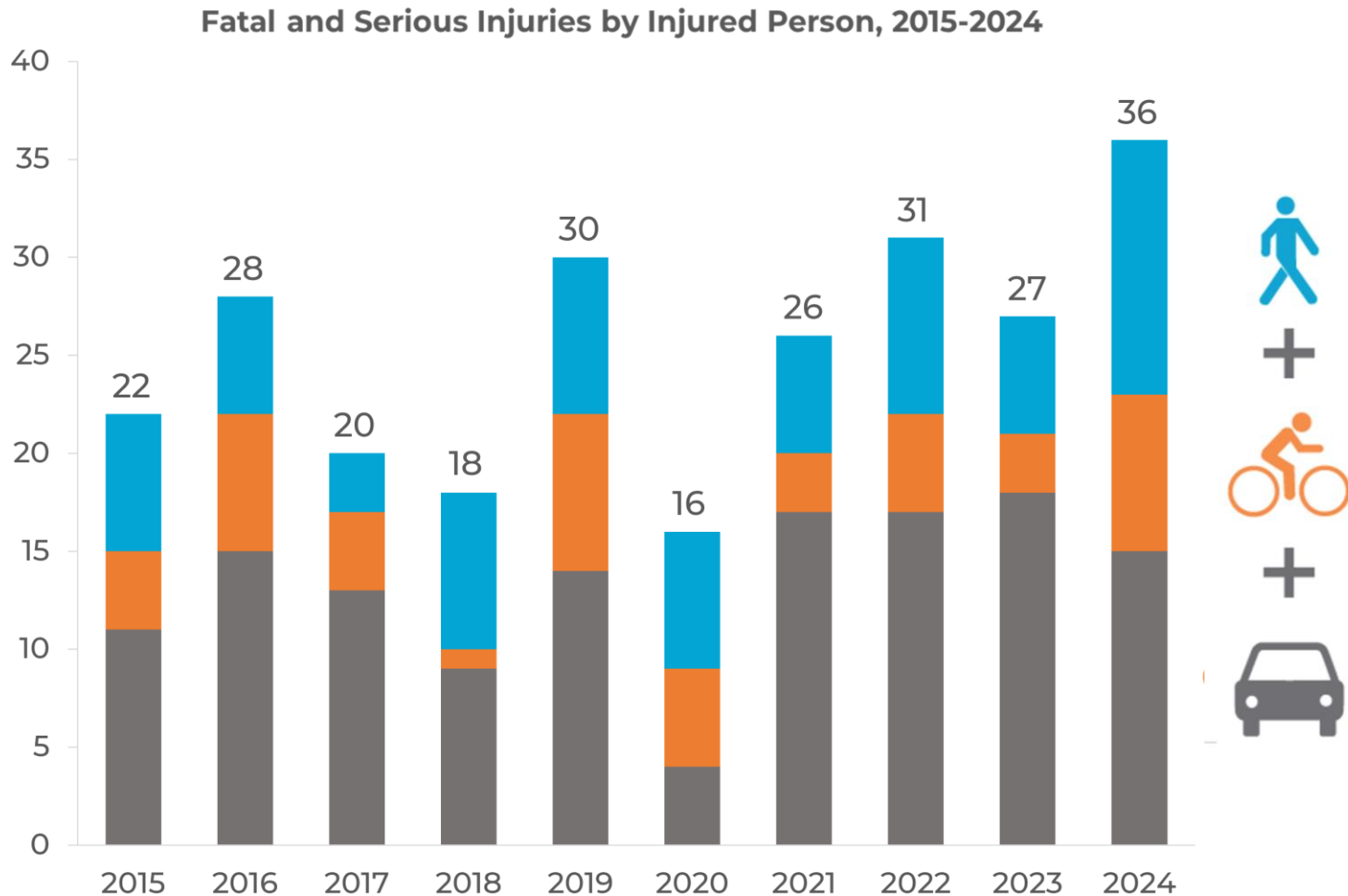


2025 Safe System Activities



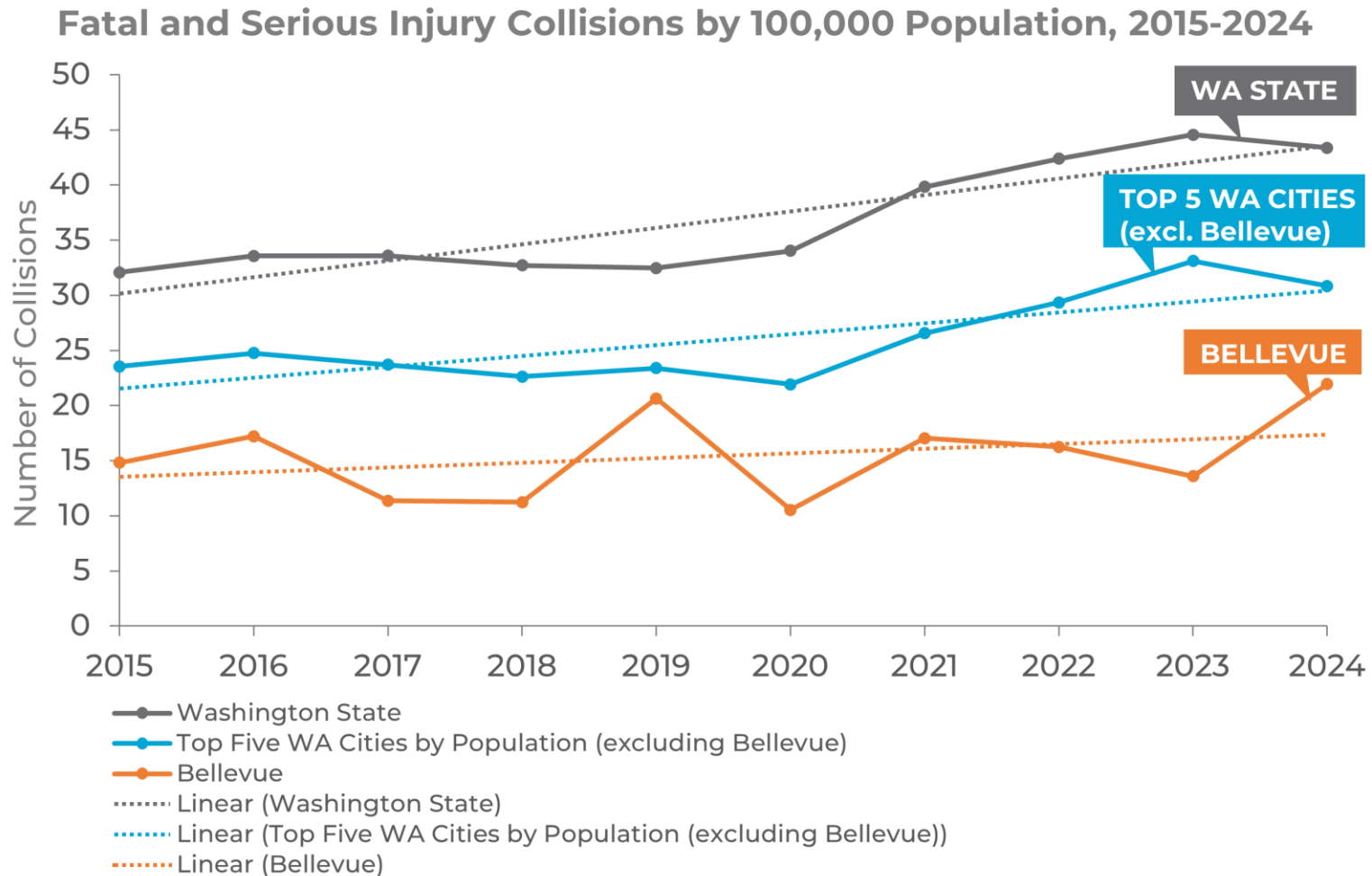
Speed Safety Camera Review

Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes



Source: Preliminary WSDOT Fatal and Serious Injury Collision Data (2015-2024)

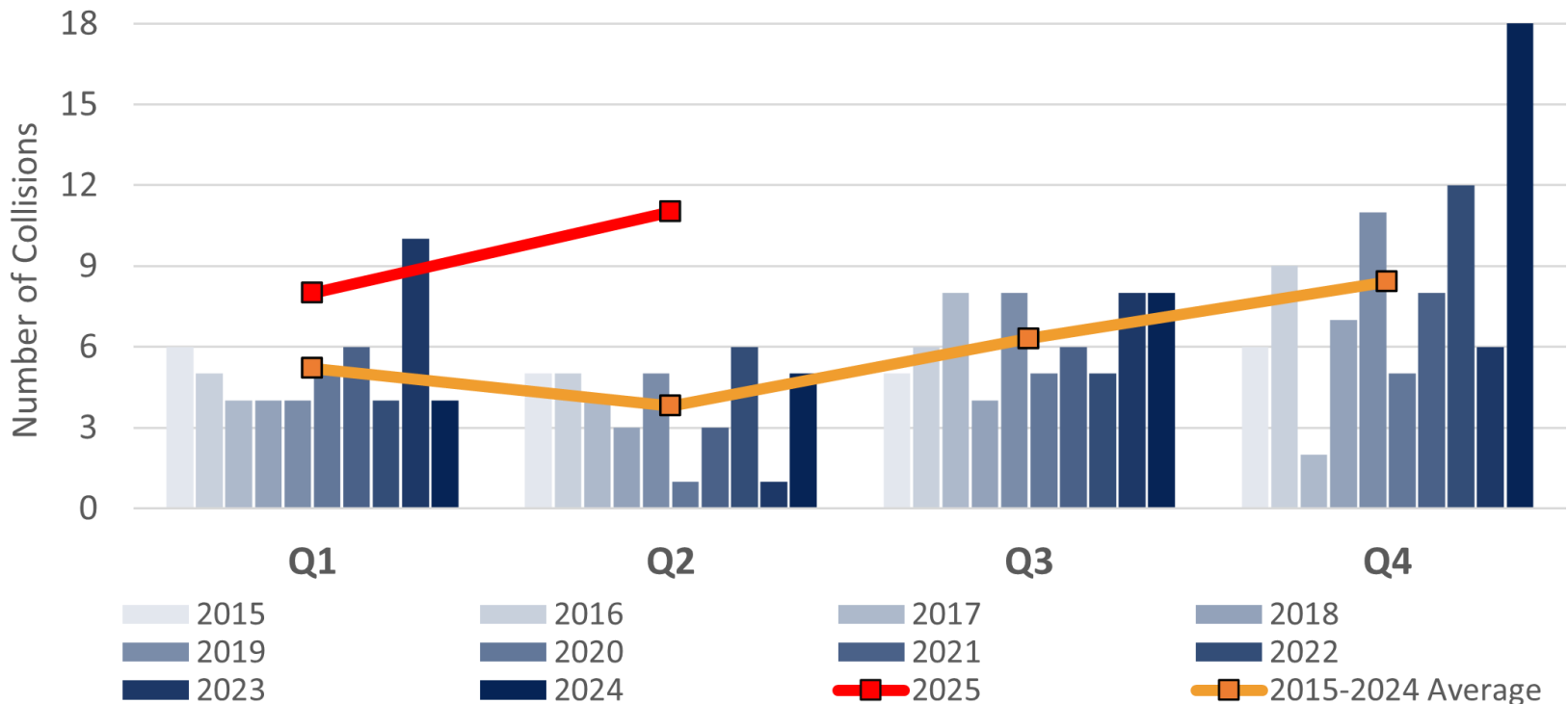
Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes



Source: Preliminary WSDOT Fatal and Serious Injury Collision Data (2015-2024)

Q2 2025 Status Report

Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions by Quarter



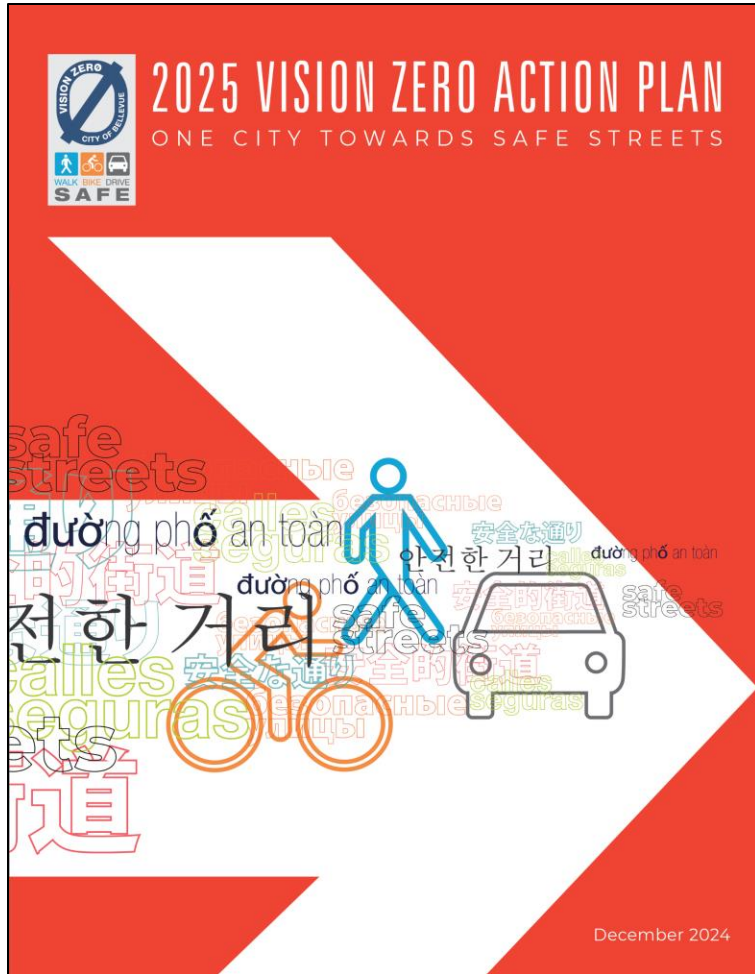
Source: WSDOT Collision Data 2015-2024, Preliminary WSDOT Collision Data January-June 2025

In Q2 2025, Bellevue experienced 11 fatal and serious injury (FSI) collisions — nearly three times the 10-year Q2 average of four, representing a 189% increase over historical trends. The largest increase in FSI collisions occurred among motorcycles, rising from 0.3 to 4.

Vision Zero Policies, Plans, and Programs

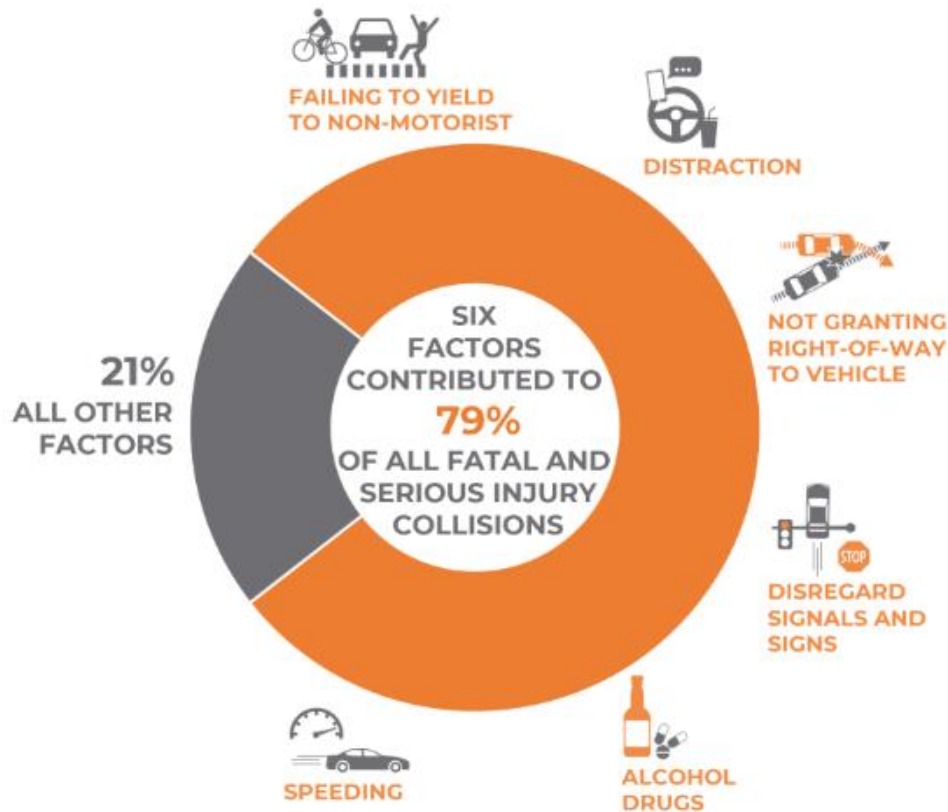


2025 Activities



- Test signal technology for real-time safety interventions (**SMART & SS4A**)
- Conduct two RSAs that include video analytics data collection (**SS4A & WSDOT**)
- Evaluate 30+ MPH arterial roadways to determine recommended target speeds (**SS4A**)
- ★ Assess existing automated speed enforcement camera program to inform potential expansion (**SS4A**)

Why Speed Matters for Bellevue



Source: WSDOT Collision Data (2015-2024)



CRIME

New video shows sports car driver speeding, losing control before fatal Bellevue crash



LOCAL

Bellevue PD shares video of fast and reckless street racing crash



BELLEVUE

Police to crackdown on speeding, street racing in Bellevue

— This comes days after an 18-year-old motorcyclist was killed after colliding with a vehicle at a Bellevue intersection.

Why Speed Safety Cameras

NYC DOT's Speed Cameras Achieved a 94 Percent Reduction in Speeding in Locations Where They Are Installed

Speeding Contributes to One in Four Traffic Deaths; New Report Shows 14% Fewer Traffic Injuries and Deaths at Speed Camera Locations Installed in 2022



Accident Analysis & Prevention
Volume 82, September 2015, Pages 263-269



Safety effects of fixed speed cameras—An empirical Bayes evaluation

Alena Høye

Highlights

- Safety effects of 223 speed cameras were evaluated with control for regression to the mean.
- Speed cameras reduces injury crashes by 22% on the first kilometer downstream of the speed cameras.
- Crash effects decrease with increasing distance from the speed cameras.
- More recent speed cameras had more favorable effects.



Program Overview



School Zone Speed Cameras

- Began in 2009
- Stevenson Elementary & Odle Middle School (NE 8th Street)
- Lake Hills Elementary School (SE 8th Street)
- Sunset Elementary School (West Lake Sammamish Pkwy)

Red Light Cameras

- Began in 2009
- Main St & 148th Ave NE (SB)
- Bel-Red Rd & 148th Ave NE (NB & SB)
- NE 8th St & 112th NE (EB & WB)
- NE 8th St & 116th Ave NE (WB)

School Bus Stop Paddle Cameras

- Pilot program began in 2017
- Cameras now installed on all Bellevue School District buses

[Ch. 11.49 Automated Traffic Safety Cameras | Bellevue City Code](#)

2024 State Law Changes



1. Speed cameras may be used in:
 - Hospital speed zones;
 - Public park speed zones;
 - School speed zones;
 - School walk zones;
 - Locations with high crash risk from excessive speeds.
2. Allows civilian citation review
3. Requires safety/equity analysis for camera siting
4. Grants 50% off first fine for aid recipients
5. Four years after installation, 25% of net camera revenue goes to the Cooper Jones Safety Account
6. Increases annual reporting requirements
7. Revenue generated must be directed to traffic safety activities

[Chapter 46.63 RCW: DISPOSITION OF TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS](#)

Program Operations Guide

As a part of the [2025 Vision Zero Action Plan](#), the City of Bellevue is developing the Speed Safety Camera Program Operations Guide in alignment with the new state legislation.

This guide will:

- Incorporate community feedback on the existing and potential expanded program
- Identify locations eligible for new camera installations
- Outline policies and procedures to guide future speed safety camera implementation

Community Engagement

YEAR	TIME	PHASE	ENGAGEMENT FOCUS
 2025	Summer– Winter	Pre-launch	Educate and engage public, build awareness, gather feedback, culminating in City Council approval of program expansion and initial list for candidate locations
2026	Spring– Summer	Launch	Communicate activation timeline, promote safe driving behavior, explain enforcement.
	Fall+	Post-Launch	Report outcomes, evaluate equity impacts, reinforce safety benefits.

What we've learned from 241 survey responses so far:

- 74% are somewhat or very concerned about **speeding's impact on safety**
- 62% believe speed safety cameras are **effective** at reducing speeds
- 73% **strongly or somewhat support their use** in school zones and areas with a history of speed related crashes
- 60% believe cameras are an **unbiased** way to enforce speed limits
- Highest priority enforcement areas include streets known for **frequent street racing** and streets with a history of **serious/fatal crashes**.
- Top two concerns for the program include the camera's effectiveness at reducing speeds and the accuracy of the cameras.

Current Perceptions: Ability to pay

Do you believe speed safety cameras are an unbiased way to enforce speed limits? – Q8, Engaging Bellevue Survey

- *“Tickets penalty cost is a larger impact for lower income families than for families that make more, where a \$150 ticket may be nothing and they can afford too risk getting speeding tickets.”*
- *“The fines do not scale with income. For high-income person, the fine is just the cost of that action. For a low-income person, the fine could be equivalent to their monthly rent.”*
- *“Rich people are not significantly impacted by fines while poor people might have to forgo meals, etc.”*
- *“Fines disproportionately impact low-income folks & communities of color. Economic & racial bias are real issues that must not be ignored. Speed camera tickets, especially after hefty late penalties are added, exacerbate the suffering for people already struggling with crippling financial hardship. Those with money can shrug a ticket off. For them, it is not a deterrent. To the already disadvantaged, who are having trouble paying their bills & putting food on the table, a ticket is a tragedy...”*

Promoting Fairness

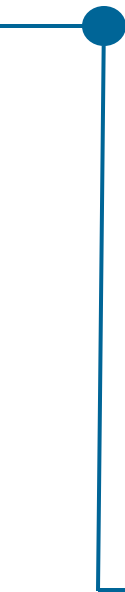
- The program enforces speed limits impartially, with fines intentionally lower than standard police tickets to reduce hardship and support compliance.
- Camera locations are selected to achieve an equitable geographic and demographic distribution across Bellevue, ensuring that no community is disproportionately represented or overburdened by enforcement.
- Individuals receiving public assistance or involved in the Washington WIC program can request a 50% discount on their initial fine and any others within 21 days [see [RCW 46.63.220\(15\)](#)].

For Discussion

How would you define success for a program like this, from a safety and equity perspective?

Questionnaire

Complete the [questionnaire](#) now available through Sept. 30 to share your input on priority areas for the camera program and submit questions to the project team.



Information

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Project Webpage: [Speed Safety Cameras | City of Bellevue](#)