

Potential Impact to Albemarle County – School Bus Stop Arm Camera Program

The implementation of the School Bus Stop Arm Camera program within the school system will make the ride to school much safer for the students of Albemarle County. Experience in other counties nationwide has shown that less than 1% of motorists that receive a Notice of Violation for passing a stopped school bus repeat that behavior.

There are a number of vendors in the stop arm camera market. An RFP will be issued in order to select the most qualified vendor. However, data from one vendor (Verra Mobility, previously ATS which is still the County's red light vendor) and other counties in Virginia that have installed these systems, was used to develop this impact study.

The camera system is installed on each bus by the vendor at no cost to the County. In addition, the vendor uploads video almost instantaneously, determines potential violations, obtains owner information from DMV, sends a video clip with the owner information of the potential violation to the police department for verification, issues a "Notice of Violation" to the owner of the vehicle, collects fines, keeps the vendor cut of the collected fines, and sends the remaining portion of the fines to the County. The number of busses that will have camera systems installed is determined jointly by the County and the vendor. The camera systems are typically placed on busses that experience a high rate of violations. A pilot study was done in 2012 in Albemarle County with two buses on two routes with a high proportion of violations. The two buses averaged 0.96 violations/bus/day. In 2018, 20 buses were fitted with extended stop arms which reduced violations 50%. It is unknown as of this writing how many busses will have camera systems installed. A conservative estimate of 10 busses was used to determine the financial impact to the county. More busses with camera systems would most likely experience an economy-of-scale effect and the unit cost would be lower. Virginia does allow collection of unpaid fines via liens or garnishing state income tax returns. However, a 50% collection rate for unpaid fines was assumed. The following conservative assumptions were used in developing this impact study:

1. Ten busses will be fitted with camera systems
2. 0.45 violations per bus per day
3. 90% of potential violations verified by ACPD
4. 75% of confirmed violations paid after "Notice of Violation"
5. 50% of remaining violations collected
6. The County would receive 25% of collected fines
7. Less than 1% of violations contested in court
8. No cases appealed
9. ACPD overtime cost of \$2851 per month
10. Albemarle County Finance expenses of \$197 per year
11. No court costs

Fine amount	\$250
Busses	10
Violations per day per bus	0.45
School days per month (including summer)	17
Violations per month	76.5
Violations verified by ACPD	69
Fines per month collected on "Notice of Violation"	\$12,938
Fines collected per month subsequently	\$2,156
Total collected	\$15,094
Albemarle County share	\$3,773
ACPD costs	-2851
Albemarle County monthly return	\$922
Finance annual cost	-197
Albemarle County net annual return	\$10,872