

## **Blue Line Solutions (BLS)**

### **Speed Cameras in School Zones in Thomson**

#### **Facts**

- Intent is to reduce speeding vehicles in traveling through school zones; reduce collisions and potential tragedy; BLS reports they generally see 94% decrease in speeders
- LIDAR speed detection units will be set up in school zones and run during school day; **all equipment provided by BLS – no cost to City** minus a few posts / some power (to operate the cameras)
- Warnings and heavy PR on front end (brochures to parents/cards given to teachers/bus drivers, newspaper, social media, etc.) – 1<sup>st</sup> 30 days
  - then citations for anything **11mph+** over speed limit
- Violation is photographed and encrypted info is sent electronically through NLETS to BLS processing center in TN; NO PHOTOS OF DRIVER, ONLY VEHICLE
- TPD post-certified officer will receive data and have to approve the citation batches to verify info is accurate (tag matches photo); roughly 15 – 30 mins per day depending on volume
- GA Law sets **fine amount at \$75** with a \$25 processing fee (1<sup>st</sup>) and \$125 (2<sup>nd</sup>) and subsequent violations
- MOU with McDuffie County Sheriff's Department– 2% of revenue goes to schools per OCGA (state law)
- Unpaid citations can be referred to the GA Dept of Revenue to be settled up when tag renewal or sale of the title occur; several (3) notices are sent to registered owner; **civil action, NOT criminal**
- BLS processes payments: **65% if fine revenue sent to TPD**; 35% to BLS
- BLS sets up a website and works with Municipal Court to set up court dates, letters to violator, and court packets

- Each month BLS provides a report with analytics, amount collected, agency's revenue, and a check
- 6 to 9 months from contract approval to execution (due to GDOT permit protocols for speed detection device)
  - If approved now, target live date for would be **January 2024**
- BLS already in place: Savannah, City of Jefferson, South Fulton, Temple, Oglethorpe County, Ringgold

<https://www.truebluesafer.com/trueblue-speed-enforcement-school-zone/> Website with more information of the program

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2018/title-40/chapter-14/article-2/section-40-14-18/> GA Law that governs school zone speed limits

<https://www.wtoc.com/2022/08/04/school-zone-speed-cameras-activated-across-coastal-empire/> - Support and Dissent