



Delaware Electronic Speed Safety Program (ESSP) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Electronic Speed Safety Program?

Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement systems are a camera-based system that detects the speed of passing vehicles. When a vehicle is deemed to be traveling in excess of a pre-determined speed over the posted work zone speed limit or higher, the system will capture images of the front and rear of the vehicle and related information (i.e. speed limit, speed, location, date, time, etc.). The program is a pilot program authorized by the FY2022 Bond Bill (Senate Bill 200 of the 151st General Assembly) specifically for the Restore the Corridor project.

2. What is the Restore the Corridor Project and why is ESSP being used?

The Wilmington Viaduct “Restore the Corridor” project is a significant DelDOT transportation project along the I-95 corridor in Wilmington that will make the repairs needed to extend the bridges’ service life and avoid major and costly rehabilitation work for a minimum of 30 years. Planned construction includes the repair of 19 bridges, I-95 pavement, and ramps within the project limits. Major construction on I-95 began in February 2021, with capacity reduced by a lane in both directions throughout the duration of the two-year project.

Despite the reduced traffic volume on I-95 through Wilmington, crashes have increased significantly in 2021 compared to “baseline” crash rates from 2018 and 2019. Total crashes have increased 35% and severe (personal injury and fatal) crashes have increased 47%. Reducing speeds is a proven way to reduce the severity of crashes when they do occur but also give motorists more time to react to avoid potential crashes all together. However, with traditional enforcement not possible due to limited access points and construction occurring directly adjacent to travel lanes throughout much of the area, DelDOT elected to pilot an electronic speed safety program, similar to those that have been deployed successfully in work zones in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

3. What is the goal of the Electronic Speed Safety Program (ESSP)?

The goal of the ESSP is to reduce speeds in work zones, improve driver behavior, save worker and motorist lives, reduce crashes, complement existing enforcement by the Delaware State Police (DSP), and promote overall work zone safety.

4. Who operates the ESSP?

Conduent, Inc. is DelDOT's "turnkey" vendor, who owns, operates, and maintains the ESSP camera equipment and citation/violation collection system. DelDOT's Office of the Secretary and Traffic Engineering Section are responsible for all engineering, safety, and policy decisions--not Conduent. Delaware State Police is responsible for reviewing and validating all citations.

5. Where are the automated speed enforcement cameras located?

The cameras are located only on I-95 in Wilmington, one northbound and one southbound within the work zone for the "Restore the Corridor" project through the City of Wilmington, as authorized by the FY2022 Bond Bill (Senate Bill 200 of the 151st General Assembly).

6. How often are the ESSP systems checked for accuracy?

The ESSP systems are required by policy to be recalibrated and recertified on an annual basis. The systems run daily self-tests to ensure all aspects of the system are operating properly at the start and end of each enforcement period. Additionally, DSP may conduct random field speed verification to ensure the units are accurately detecting speeds.

7. Is there a warning period before citations are issued?

Yes. ESSP standard operating procedures include the issuance of warnings during the 30-day period after the first work zone ESSP system is in place. After the 30-day warning period is over, warning notices will still be issued to first-time offenders. If a registered vehicle owner received one or more warning notices during the 30-day initial warning period, then any violation after day 30 would generate a violation notice.

8. Can I get a violation notice driving through a work zone even if work is not taking place?

Yes. Delaware's ESSP enforces posted work zone speed limits 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year within the work zone in order to promote safe work zone speeds at all times. During the Restore the Corridor project, traffic has been shifted into a contraflow pattern with lane shifts and reduced capacity. It is important that the posted speed limit be adhered to at all times.

9. If I drive past a speed camera at 2 or 3 mph over the posted work zone speed limit, will I automatically get a ticket?

No. Images are only captured and used for the purpose of issuing a citation if a vehicle is exceeding the posted work zone speed limit by 13 mph or greater. The 13 mph threshold was established to be similar to other states' automated speed enforcement practices.

10. What is the posted work zone speed limit within the enforcement area?

The posted work zone speed limit within the “Restore the Corridor” project work zone is 45 MPH.

11. How can I check to see if I will be receiving a citation?

Call Conduent Customer Service at (844) 213-7033.

12. How long does it take to get a violation notice in the mail?

Notices of violation will be mailed to a registered owner within 30 days of the violation occurring.

13. Are the violation notices reviewed before they are mailed out?

All violation notices are reviewed before issuance. All warnings contested by the registered vehicle owner and all subsequent violations are reviewed and affirmed by the Delaware State Police.

14. I received a citation. How do I access Conduent’s online payment portal?

<https://public.cite-web.com/PublicINQ/default.asp#view-citations>

15. What is the fine? Are points assessed against my driver's license?

For a first violation, the notice carries no financial penalty and is a written warning. For each subsequent violation, the base violation is \$20.00 and an additional amount is added for each mile per hour over the posted work zone speed limit in accordance with Del. C. §4169(c). For example, if the captured violation occurs at a speed of 58 mph, the speed violation is \$20.00 plus an additional \$13.00 which accounts for \$1.00 for each mile per hour over the 45 mph work zone speed limit. This is a civil violation; no points are assessed against your driver’s license and your insurance company is not notified.

16. What are the various fees and extra charges for on my citation?

Delaware Code requires certain fees to be assessed on moving violations under Title 21. The following fees are added to the speed violation for ESSP:

- 1) Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) Surcharge, 50% of speed violation (11 Del. C. §4101(g))
- 2) Fund to Combat Violent Crimes, \$15.00 (11 Del. C. §4101(h))
- 3) Volunteer Ambulance Company Fund, \$10.00 (11 Del. C. §4101(j))

17. What if I don't pay the fine?

According to Delaware Code, failure to pay the fine or contest the violation in court can result in additional fees and penalties. The penalty for late payments increases \$10 for every 30 days late, up to \$30.

If the fine is not paid within 120 days, the unpaid citation will be forwarded to the State's third-party collections agency. The collections notice will be mailed by DelDOT's Collections Vendor on day 121 after the first violation notice mail date. Payment is due 30 days from the notice mail date. All subsequent collections will be handled by DelDOT's Collections Vendor and no more payments will be processed by Conduent Pay By Phone or Pay By Web.

18. I do not believe my citation is valid. How do I dispute my citation?

Please follow the instructions on the citation. A written appeal must be filed with Conduent within 21 days of the initial notice. For more information, contact Conduent at (844) 213-7033 or follow the online instructions at: <https://public.cite-web.com/PublicINQ/default.asp#view-citations>

19. What happens after I appeal my citation?

You will be assigned a case by the State of Delaware Justice of the Peace (JP) Court. You will receive a summons via U.S. mail advising you of the date and time of your hearing.

20. I think I may have a defense to the ticket. Whom do I contact?

Neither DelDOT nor Conduent can provide legal advice on any violations. Please consult legal counsel if you have any questions regarding the tickets.

21. I was not driving the vehicle at the time of the violation. How do I appeal in this case?

Fill out the Affidavit of Non-Responsibility form on the back of the citation received and identify the driver of the vehicle at the time of violation. A driver's notice is then generated by Conduent and sent to the identified driver. A letter is mailed to the registered owner informing that the transfer of liability was approved. However, if the driver of the vehicle does not pay the citation, the registered owner of the vehicle is ultimately responsible for the outstanding ticket. Contact Conduent at (844) 213-7033 or follow the online instructions at: <https://public.cite-web.com/PublicINQ/default.asp#view-citations>

22. How is revenue from the fines used?

Revenue from the fines collected as part of the program will cover expenditures related to the program. In the event that all expenditures related to the program are covered and excess revenue remains, that excess revenue may be utilized when/where appropriate, for traffic engineering and safety countermeasures.

23. Are speed cameras an invasion of privacy?

No. Speed cameras only record images of vehicles whose drivers violate traffic laws by speeding. When motorists apply for a driver's license, they are agreeing to abide by the rules of the road. The purpose of the ESSP pilot program is to improve highway safety by detecting motorists who violate the law and endanger the lives of other motorists and construction workers.

In addition, speed cameras only record vehicles traveling at or above a defined speed threshold. Law-abiding citizens are unaffected by the use of this technology, since images are only captured when a vehicle passes at a speed equal to or greater than the defined threshold.

24. Which other states use speed cameras in work zones?

Currently, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Illinois.

25. How can I find out more about the ESSP?

<http://www.restorethecorridor.com>; <http://safety.deldot.gov>

26. I have an idea on how to improve roadway safety in Delaware. How do I inform DeIDOT?

<https://deldot.gov/Traffic/ReportRoadCondition/index.shtml>