

February 15, 2007

## New red-light camera research

Adding more fuel to the debate over red-light cameras:

[USA Today reports](#) that two new research projects on the cameras show they dramatically reduce the number of drivers who run red lights.

Researchers studied the effectiveness of red light cameras in Philadelphia and Virginia Beach.

The Philadelphia study, conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), an industry group, examined red light violations using a two-step approach. First, researchers found that violations dropped by 36% after yellow lights were extended to give drivers more warning that the light was about to turn red. After red light cameras were added, remaining violations dropped by 96%.

*"There's a dramatic change in driver behavior when red light cameras are used,"* says Richard Retting, senior transportation safety engineer for IIHS. *"The jury is in on that question."*

Houston resident Greg Dunn wrote to the Chron's transportation reporter, Rad Sallee, with this comment on the story: "It is time for the state of Texas gets its head out of the sand and accept that red light cameras are good for the public welfare."