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CCM joins with coalition seeking to allow CT municipalities to install red light cameras to improve street safety

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) today (Thursday, Feb. 16), as part of a coalition of advocacy groups and key state legislators, called on the Governor and General Assembly to enact legislation to give towns and cities the option to use cameras at certain high-traffic and higher-risk red light intersections to help improving street safety in communities across Connecticut.

The legislation would specifically allow municipalities the option of using automated traffic control signal enforcement devices (i.e. cameras) at local intersections for the purposes of enforcing red light violations. CCM has joined with the National Coalition for Safer Roads, the Brain Injury Association of CT and State Legislative Leaders Senator Martin Looney, Senator John Fonfara, Senator Steve Cassano, and State Representative Antonio Guerrero – among other supportive legislators – to push for this legislation. Scott Jackson, Mayor of Hamden and a member of CCM’s Board of Directors, and Paul Gaudett, Police Chief in Bridgeport, attended and spoke at the February 16 news conference with the coalition to support the backing of the bill by CCM and their communities.

“CCM supports the coalition’s efforts and this legislation as a reasonable means of making local streets safer,” said Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO. “And this legislation would also allow those municipalities that decide to install such technology to recoup a portion of the fines collected from such violations. Simply put, giving municipalities the option to use cameras to prevent and enforce traffic violations would improve the safety and quality of life in our communities.”

Allowing Connecticut’s local governments this option would be consistent with current law enforcement practices in other states. According to a recent OLR report, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) cited that “more than 400 communities in about two dozen states use red light cameras. Such major U.S. cities that are already taking advantage of this safety technology include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Phoenix, Denver, and Providence

Whether it is laptop computers in police cruisers or “shot-spotter” devices that detect gunfire in neighborhoods – Connecticut’s law enforcement officials have a history of embracing technology in order to improve our quality of life, without infringements on civil liberties. Allowing towns and cities to use cameras at certain intersections to deter and enforce red light violations would be a logical extension in an ongoing effort to improve municipal public safety.

