

# Town of Durham – Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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[Proposed Ordinance for Town Meeting Approval 4-27-26](#)

[CTDOT ATESD Guidance Manual](#)

[Speed Study #1](#)

[Speed Study #2](#)

[Public Informational Meeting](#)

[Public Hearing](#)

The Town of Durham's Complete Streets Committee conducted an online survey in early 2025 regarding road safety in town. Approximately 300 residents responded. 90% identified frequent unsafe speeding as a problem, and 84% were concerned about traffic safety issues. Two-thirds indicated support for the idea of using speed cameras (ATESDs) to address unsafe driving behaviors here. Complete Streets researched the recent state statute and ordinances in nearby and comparable CT towns, then drafted an ordinance for Durham, which was presented to the Board of Selectmen for revision with input from Town Counsel.

A [Public Informational Meeting](#) was held on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., with about 40 participants in attendance both in-person and via Zoom. The purpose of this meeting was to present data feedback from the [Speed Study](#) conducted by Altumint Inc., and to discuss the possible use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) in town. Minutes and the recording for this meeting can be viewed on the [town website](#).

A [Public Hearing](#) was held on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., with about 40 participants in attendance both in-person and via Zoom. The purpose of the public hearing was to present information, discuss, and provide an opportunity for public comments on the following: [Proposed Ordinance Establishing the Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices \(ATESD\)](#)

Feedback from the Public Hearing was discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting on March 16, 2026, including the following items:

- Personally Identifiable Information
- Legal Defenses
- Appeals Process
- Cost neutrality

The Board of Selectmen made a motion to send the proposed ordinance with the Special Town Meeting.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, they set a date of Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Durham Community Center, 144 Pickett Lane, and approved a call to [Special Town Meeting](#) with the Proposed Ordinance Establishing the Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) for approval.

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## What is an ATESD program?

Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESDs) are cameras used to enforce speeding and red-light violations. They are designed to improve roadway safety and reduce crashes, not to monitor traffic or track vehicles.

## Why is Durham considering this?

The Town of Durham is evaluating this program based on both crash data and speed data. Over the past five years, crash data has identified locations where accidents are occurring more frequently. In addition, speed studies show areas where drivers are consistently traveling above the posted speed limit. When these two factors overlap, it identifies locations with a higher risk for future crashes. The goal is to focus on those areas and improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, and the community. Crash data (2019–2024) and speed study summaries were used in this evaluation and are available upon request.

## Are these cameras always recording?

No. ATESDs are only activated when a violation occurs. If you are driving legally, nothing is recorded or stored.

## Is this the same as a license plate reader (ALPR)?

No. ATESDs only capture data during a violation and cannot track vehicles. ALPRs continuously scan plates and are used for investigative purposes.

## Is this just a money grab?

No. Connecticut law prohibits vendors from being paid based on the number of tickets issued and requires these programs to focus on safety. The goal is to reduce crashes and improve roadway safety, not generate revenue.

## What is the cost to the taxpayers?

The program is 100% funded by violations. Revenue from the program covers the cost of running it, including administration and the hearing process, and can also be used for traffic safety improvements. These programs are designed to be cost-neutral over time.

## Will this affect my license or insurance?

No. These are civil violations. They do not result in points or affect insurance.

## What information is collected?

Only limited information, such as vehicle image, license plate, date, time, and location of the violation. No data is collected on vehicles that are not committing violations.

## Who owns the data?

The Town of Durham owns and controls all data. Vendors cannot release it.

## How long is data kept?

Data is retained only as long as necessary to process the violation and is deleted after adjudication in accordance with state law.

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## How does the review process work?

Each potential violation is reviewed by a trained reviewer and may be escalated to a police officer if needed before a citation is issued.

## How will I be notified?

A notice of violation is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

## What if I want to contest a ticket?

You have the right to request a hearing. Under Connecticut law, a written request must be submitted within ten (10) days from the date printed on the notice of violation. This date is the date the Town issues and mails the notice. Hearings are conducted by a local municipal hearing officer. If you believe you did not receive the notice in time, you should contact the Town. Hearing officers may consider late requests when there is good cause.

## How are locations selected?

Locations are selected using a combination of crash data, speed studies, and documented safety concerns. The Town focuses on areas where both crash history and speeding patterns indicate a higher risk.

## What approvals are required?

The Town must adopt an ordinance, hold public hearings, and receive approval from CTDOT/OSTA before installation.

## Will there be a warning period?

Yes. A 30-day warning period is required before citations are issued.

## How the Process Works (Simple Overview)

Violation Occurs → System Captures Potential Violation → Review Process → Notice Mailed → 10 Days from Date of Notice to Request Hearing → Hearing or Payment of Civil Fine

## Final Takeaway

This program is focused on safety, has no cost to taxpayers, includes strong privacy protections, and is controlled by the Town with state oversight.

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## DURHAM, CT- MV ACCIDENT HEAT MAP

### Crash Density Map Note:

The heat map reflects relative crash density based on data from the Connecticut Crash Data Repository. Areas shown in green represent lower concentrations of crashes, while yellow and red areas indicate increasing crash density. This visualization is intended to identify general patterns and corridors of activity rather than exact crash counts at specific locations.

