

Speed Camera Coming to Interstate 5 in Centralia

Safety: Camera Meant to Enforce Speed Limit Through Mellen Street, Blakeslee Junction Work Zones

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By Kyle Spurr

An automated speed-enforcement camera will be placed in the Mellen Street to Blakeslee Junction construction zone along Interstate 5 in Centralia beginning Monday, April 8, in an attempt to slow drivers and keep construction crews safe.

A small sports utility vehicle parked near I-5 will monitor traffic speeds in both directions and carry an automated camera to capture the rear license plates of speeding vehicles, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Drivers caught speeding will receive a citation up to \$137 within 14 days.

WSDOT spokesperson Alice Fiman said no end date has been set for the camera, but it should be up in Lewis County for at least six weeks starting April 8.

Travelers will see signs warning, "speed limit photo enforced," while passing through the I-5 Mellen Street to Blakeslee Junction project work zone.

The signs will be in place next week.

Fiman said the automated camera was first used in Washington in the fall of 2008 at two work zones near Grand Mound. Most recently, the camera was used on Interstate 90 over Snoqualmie Pass.

The camera will be set in different locations around the I-5, Mellen Street to Blakeslee Junction project and will only be used when crews are out working, Fiman said.

"It's all about work zone safety and keeping speeds down in the work zones," Fiman said.

The construction work is a part of the WSDOT's Interstate 5, Mellen Street to Blakeslee Junction widening project, expected to be completed in early 2015.

The automated speed-enforcement camera is part of WSDOT's Give 'em A Brake program, which encourages drivers to slow down in work zones.

Nationwide, more than 90 percent of work zone-related injuries involve drivers and their passengers, according to WSDOT.

WSDOT contracted with American Traffic Solutions to run the program.

The Washington State Patrol will review and certify each infraction.

WSP troopers will continue traditional speed enforcement in the work zone.

The fine for a speeding citation issued by a police officer can exceed \$400.

More information, including a question-and-answer section and public feedback form, are available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/safety/ATSC.