



Know Your Laws

Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE):
What Every Municipality Must Check
Before Launch

Why Do ATE Laws Matter?

ATE rules differ widely by state (and often by city). Getting just one detail wrong can pause programs, invalidate citations, or erode public trust. The safest path is partnering with a turnkey provider that builds compliance into every step.



11 Regulatory Checkpoints:

1. Authorization & Governance: Confirm enabling authority and agency oversight.
2. Where Cameras May Operate: Many states restrict ATE to school zones, parks or work zones.
3. When They May Operate: Time windows, such as school hours or work zones when workers are present.
4. Signage & Public Notice: Advance warning signs and community outreach required.
5. Device Location & Setbacks: Placement distance, line-of-sight, ADA clearance.
6. Speed Thresholds & Tolerances: Defined trigger speeds above posted limits.
7. Calibration, Certification & Maintenance: Regular checks and logs required.
8. Evidence, Review & Due Process: Officer/authorized reviewer sign-off.
9. Privacy & Data Governance: Capture plates only, limit retention and sharing.
10. Contracts, Compensation & Revenue: Restrictions on how vendors are compensated.
11. Equity & Transparency: Public reporting and independent evaluations.



Avoid Common Pitfalls

Non-compliance with state or local ATE regulations can lead to costly consequences, including program downtime, eroding safety, removal of equipment, leading to lost revenue and/or incurred litigation costs, as well as loss of public trust.

When cameras are installed or operated outside of legal requirements, municipalities face unexpected expenses and disruptions that delay safety improvements.

Meticulous reviews with industry experts, and adherence to all applicable rules are essential to avoid these setbacks.



How a Turnkey Partner Reduces Your Risk

- 50-state rule mapping and change monitoring
- Site surveys with documented setbacks and ADA clearance
- Standardized signage plans aligned to statutes & MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices)
- Calibration & audit logs packaged for court readiness
- Public education toolkits to build legitimacy
- Transparent contracts
- Program dashboards to track safety outcomes

Automated Traffic Enforcement – Launch Checklist



1. Legal & Authorization

- Confirm state and local legal authority to operate ATE.
- Review enabling legislation for scope, restrictions, and allowed locations.
- Secure formal approvals from governing bodies (city council, Public Works, DOT, etc.).



2. Zone & Site Selection

- Identify eligible zones (school zones, work zones, high-crash corridors).
- Conduct traffic safety analysis (speed studies, crash data, volume counts).
- Ensure equity considerations—avoid disproportionate targeting of certain neighborhoods.



3. Siting & Placement Compliance

- Verify minimum setbacks from curb or travel lane.
- Check line-of-sight clearance and avoid obstructions.
- Comply with ADA clearances for sidewalks and public access.
- Follow state-specific camera mounting rules (pole height, placement type, etc.).



4. Signage & Public Notice

- Install advance warning signs per statutory requirements and MUTCD guidelines.
- Provide public notice (press releases, website updates, mailers).
- Implement education/warning period if required.



5. Technical Readiness

- Calibrate equipment and complete initial certification.
- Document device ID, location, and serial number.
- Test image capture quality for day/night and adverse weather.
- Verify trigger speeds and tolerance settings.



6. Data & Evidence Handling

- Establish secure data storage protocols.
- Configure access controls for evidence review.
- Define retention period in compliance with law.
- Ensure privacy safeguards (plate-only capture, no faces or occupants).



7. Review & Citation Process

- Assign authorized reviewer(s) (sworn officer or designated official).
- Document review and sign-off procedures.
- Confirm citation mailing timelines and approved language.
- Integrate with payment and appeals systems.



8. Vendor & Contract Compliance

- Verify contract terms comply with state revenue-sharing restrictions.
- Ensure vendor compensation in in-line with legislative guidelines.
- Confirm vendor provides ongoing compliance monitoring.



9. Public Engagement

- Launch educational campaign (social media, community meetings, FAQs).
- Provide program dashboards or regular updates to the public.



10. Ongoing Program Management

- Schedule periodic calibration and re-certification.
- Maintain audit logs for court readiness.
- Monitor monthly performance reports (citations, speed reduction trends, etc.).
- Review site effectiveness and adjust locations if needed.

