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Seattle Traffic: Snap at every light

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Seattle is stepping up the use of cameras to nab red-light runners. Good. It's a modest step toward changing a well-coddled culture of drivers who believe nothing should slow me, me, me from getting there as soon as possible.

The resulting habits are too often deadly or life-altering for the drivers themselves, other vehicle occupants and unprotected pedestrians.

The red light cameras at four city intersections **will expand** to a total of nearly two dozen intersections this year. The initial results have proved impressive in cutting violations. The number of injury accidents may also have been cut; that's the key to watch for everyone's sake.

Along with urban redesign, education and other enforcement efforts aimed at drivers and pedestrians alike, the red lights can make moving about the city safer. But there's a long way to go. Seattle likes to congratulate itself on being a great place for walking. Please. The annual pedestrian death toll is frequently close to 10, with 400-plus injuries. Those hundreds of miles of Seattle streets without sidewalks? Closer to laughable than "great." However we compare to major U.S. cities, Seattle is anything but world-class in innovative traffic engineering and land use for pedestrian safety, or biking safety. Bring on the cameras, and a lot more innovation.

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