

Photo Radar Traffic Enforcement Study

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City of Lethbridge

As southwestern Alberta's economic and urban hub, the city of Lethbridge is home to 72,717 residents, 57,674 of which are 18 years of age or older. The city is divided into six census areas, two each for its South, North and West geographic areas. The city is divided north and south by Alberta highway 3, and east-west by the Oldman River.



South Lethbridge is the city's most populous area. The 27,941 southside residents represent

38.4% of the city's total population. West Lethbridge (22,429) and north Lethbridge (22,347) represent 30.8% and 30.7% respectively.

Situated at the intersections of Alberta highways 3, 4 and 5, Lethbridge is also a major transportation hub. The city has two river crossings in the Highway 3 and Whoop Up bridges, several ring-roads, and is geographically divided by the Crowsnest Corridor freeway.

Streets and roads within the city limits are policed by Lethbridge Police Services.

Methodology

The data in this report were collected by telephone interview in February 2000, September 2001 and February 2002 by Lethbridge Community College students enrolled in PSC150 – Local Government and STS270 – Social Science Research Methods.

Samples

- February 2000 = 470
- September 2001 = 546
- February 2002 = 483

Telephone numbers were randomly selected from the Lethbridge telephone directory to ensure a representative sample of the city of Lethbridge adult population. Samples sizes such as these typically yield a margin of error of between ± 4.4 to $\pm 5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The demographic tables on page 11 indicate that, within acceptable limits, the sample distribution accurately reflects the demographic distribution of the population within the city of Lethbridge.

Photo Radar (February 2002) (%)

Despite the rancor and emotion that the issue of photo radar seems to invoke in many, the majority of Lethbridge residents have consistently expressed their satisfaction with this traffic enforcement program.

As recently as the spring of 2002, a clear majority of respondents (53.1%) told us that they were satisfied with how the program was working and would not change either the frequency or location of photo radar use.

Furthermore, 17.5% stated that they would prefer the locations and frequency to be increased. Taken together, it is clear that over two-thirds of all respondents support photo radar enforcement of speed limits, in one way or another.

Of the approximately one-third who are opposed, 9.1% stated that they would prefer a reduction in locations and use, but not elimination of the program. A further 20.3%

stated they wanted photo radar eliminated all together. These patterns were relatively consistent at each time we tested opinion on this issue.

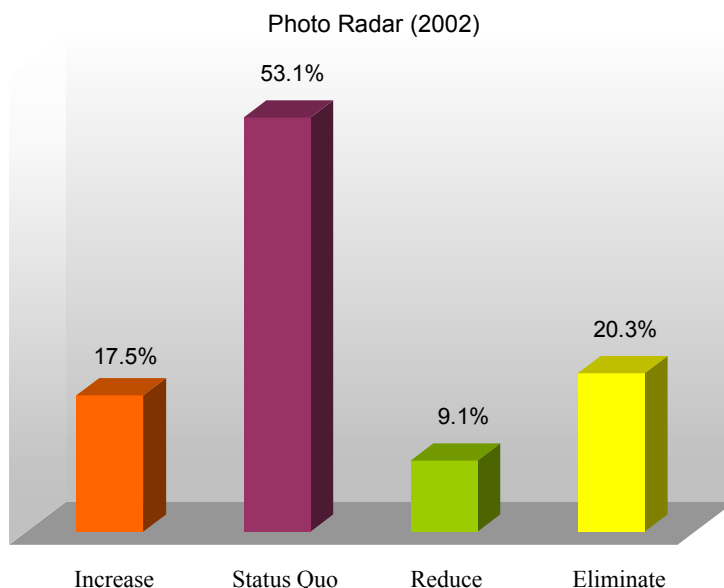


Photo Radar (October 2001) (%)

As the table opposite indicates, although there has been some slight variation, each time we asked this question a majority (or near majority) stated they were satisfied with the status quo while between 13% and 17% stated they wanted more photo radar.

Of the approximately one-third opposed to photo radar, men tended to express greater disapproval of photo radar than did women. In 2000 this gap was significant in that while 22.7% of men wanted photo radar eliminated, only 12.7% of women felt similarly.

Interestingly, neither area of the city nor age had a significant impact on opinion. For example, West Lethbridge residents were not more or less likely to support or oppose photo radar than were their southside or northside counterparts.

Similarly, younger residents were not consistently more supportive or opposed to photo radar than were middle aged or older residents.

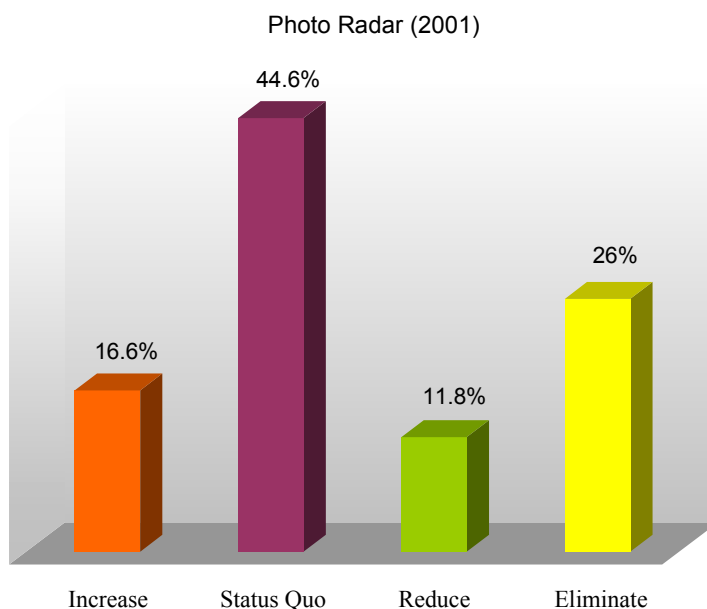


Photo Radar (February 2000)

Although we initially anticipated that respondents with children would be most supportive of photo radar, as it turns out, those with children were more opposed to photo radar than were those without children.

When this factor is analyzed in conjunction with gender and area of residence, an interesting pattern emerges.

Men are more opposed to photo radar than are women, southside men are more opposed than men from other areas of the city (29.4% of southside men want photo radar eliminated), and southside men with children are the most opposed with 38.9% wanting photo radar eliminated.

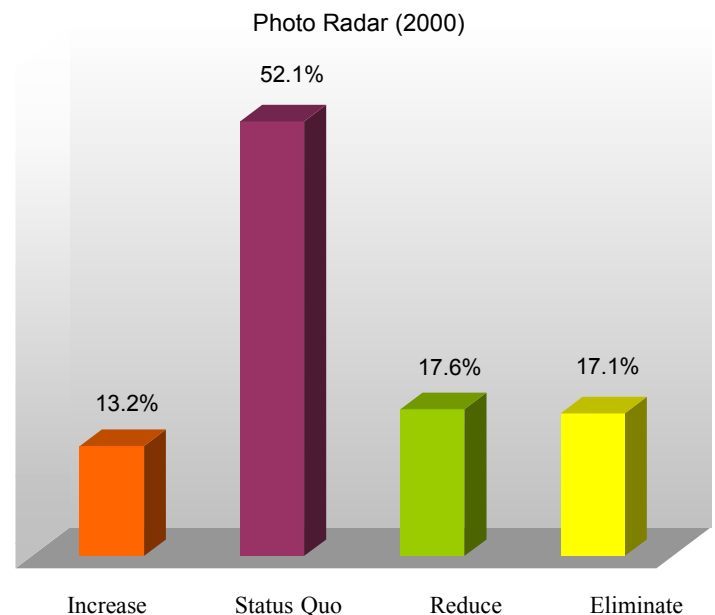


Photo Red Light Cameras (February 2002) (%)

Finally, we asked respondents to state their support or opposition to the proposal to allow the Lethbridge Police Services to begin using photo red light cameras to ticket drivers who run red lights.

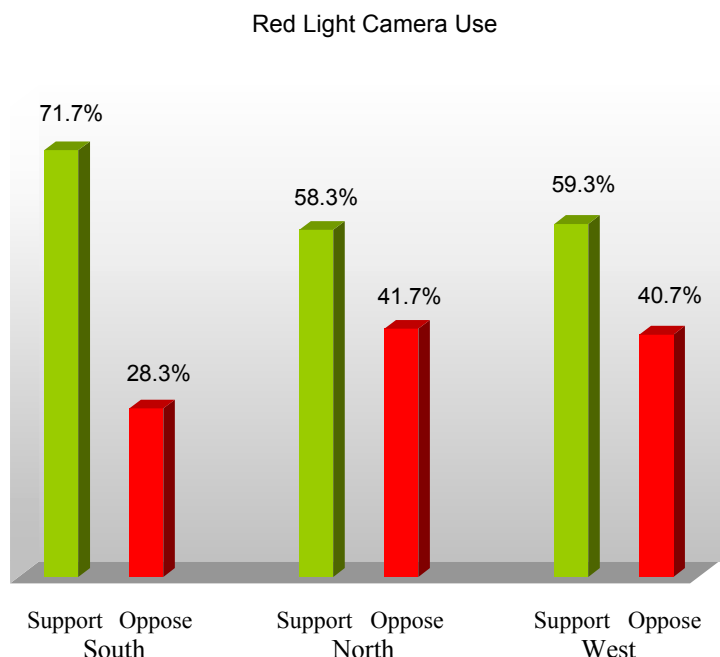
A clear majority of respondents in all areas of the city support the introduction of photo red light cameras with southside residents most supportive (71.7%).

Men (61.9%) were slightly less supportive than were women (65.5%), with northside men (45.7%) and westside women (44.3%) most opposed.

Seniors (78.1) were much more supportive than the youth (61.6%) or middle aged respondents (58.6%).

As with photo radar, an interesting phenomenon was measured when the data were analyzed by whether or not a respondent had dependent children currently living with them. Those with children (41%) were more opposed to red light cameras than were those without dependent children (3%).

Probing deeper, we found that half of all northside men with children were opposed to red light cameras. There were again followed closely by westside women (46.2%) and northside women (45.5%). Southside women without children were most supportive at 80.7%.



Tabular Data

Photo Radar (February 2002) (%)

Photo Radar (2002)	(%)
Increase	17.5
Status Quo	53.1
Reduce	9.1
Eliminate	20.3

Photo Radar (2002) by Gender

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Increase	19.4	16.2	17.5
Status Quo	48.5	56.3	53.1
Reduce	9.2	9.0	9.1
Eliminate	23.0	18.4	20.3

Photo Radar (2002) by Area

	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>West</u>
Increase	16.8	15.5	20.8
Status Quo	51.5	53.6	53.5
Reduce	9.9	9.1	7.6
Eliminate	21.8	21.8	18.1

Photo Radar (2002) by Age

	<u>18-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60 plus</u>
Increase	17.0	22.0	11.5
Status Quo	52.3	44.6	70.8
Reduce	9.7	8.6	4.2
Eliminate	21.0	24.7	13.5

Photo Radar (2002) by Income

	<u>Under \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30- \$50,000</u>	<u>Over \$50,000</u>
Increase	16.0	19.2	17.4
Status Quo	55.2	52.8	54.2
Reduce	9.6	5.6	9.7
Eliminate	19.2	22.4	18.7

Photo Radar (2002) by Education

	<u>HS or less</u>	<u>Some PS</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>University</u>
Increase	16.1	17.5	19.8	16.8
Status Quo	56.5	46.6	51.9	56.6
Reduce	8.1	11.7	8.4	8.0
Eliminate	19.4	24.3	19.8	18.6

Photo Radar (2002) by Children in Household

	<u>Children</u>	<u>None</u>
Increase	15.6	18.5
Status Quo	53.2	53.0
Reduce	8.7	9.4
Eliminate	22.5	19.1

Photo Radar (October 2001) (%)

Photo Radar (2001)	(%)
Increase	16.6
Status Quo	44.6
Reduce	11.8
Eliminate	26.0

Photo Radar (2001) by Gender

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Increase	16.1	18.9	16.6
Status Quo	37.0	50.5	44.6
Reduce	14.3	9.8	11.8
Eliminate	32.6	20.9	26.0

Photo Radar (2001) by Area

	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>West</u>
Increase	16.3	19.0	17.8
Status Quo	42.8	49.3	43.6
Reduce	14.4	10.6	9.2
Eliminate	26.5	21.1	29.4

Photo Radar (2001) by Age

	<u>18-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60 plus</u>
Increase	18.2	15.3	21.3
Status Quo	41.3	49.5	44.7
Reduce	13.3	9.7	12.8
Eliminate	27.1	25.5	21.3

Photo Radar (2001) by Income

	<u>Under \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30- \$50,000</u>	<u>Over \$50,000</u>
Increase	19.1	18.0	15.5
Status Quo	46.7	47.7	44.6
Reduce	9.2	13.5	14.0
Eliminate	25.0	20.7	25.9

Photo Radar (2001) by Education

	<u>HS or less</u>	<u>Some PS</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>University</u>
Increase	19.2	21.0	16.2	14.1
Status Quo	45.4	39.5	47.7	46.6
Reduce	9.2	15.1	11.7	11.7
Eliminate	26.2	24.4	24.3	27.6

Photo Radar (February 2000) (%)

Photo Radar (2000)	(%)
Increase	13.2
Status Quo	52.1
Reduce	17.6
Eliminate	17.1

Photo Radar (2000) by Gender

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Increase	13.3	13.1	13.2
Status Quo	49.3	54.4	52.1
Reduce	14.8	19.8	17.6
Eliminate	22.7	12.7	17.1

Photo Radar (2000) by Area

	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>West</u>
Increase	15.4	12.7	10.7
Status Quo	51.6	48.3	55.0
Reduce	15.9	18.6	18.3
Eliminate	17.0	20.3	16.0

Photo Radar (2000) by Age

	<u>18-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60 plus</u>
Increase	12.8	12.0	16.0
Status Quo	50.8	54.9	50.6
Reduce	20.0	14.3	18.5
Eliminate	16.4	18.9	14.8

Photo Radar (2000) by Income

	<u>Under \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30- \$50,000</u>	<u>Over \$50,000</u>
Increase	12.3	13.8	12.8
Status Quo	50.0	56.0	53.4
Reduce	22.5	16.5	15.8
Eliminate	15.2	13.8	18.0

Photo Radar (2000) by Education

	<u>HS or less</u>	<u>Some PS</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>University</u>
Increase	15.0	10.6	9.7	16.5
Status Quo	40.7	55.8	55.3	56.7
Reduce	19.5	22.1	16.5	13.4
Eliminate	24.8	11.5	18.4	13.4

Allow Photo Red Light Camera Use (%)

Red Light Cameras	(%)
Support	65.5
Oppose	34.5

Red Light Cameras by Gender

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support	61.9	65.5	65.5
Oppose	38.1	34.5	34.5

Red Light Cameras by Area

	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>West</u>
Support	71.7	58.3	59.3
Oppose	28.3	41.7	40.7

Photo Radar (2001) by Age

	<u>18-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60 plus</u>
Support	61.6	58.6	78.1
Oppose	38.4	41.4	21.9

Red Light Cameras by Income

	<u>Under \$30,000</u>	<u>\$30- \$50,000</u>	<u>Over \$50,000</u>
Support	66.7	68.8	59.5
Oppose	33.3	31.2	40.5

Red Light Cameras by Education

	<u>HS or less</u>	<u>Some PS</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>University</u>
Support	67.2	60.0	60.8	67.0
Oppose	32.8	40.0	39.2	33.0

Red Light Cameras by Children in Household

	<u>Children</u>	<u>None</u>
Support	59.0	67.0
Oppose	41.0	33.0

Demographics

Gender (%)	2000	2001	2002
Male	44.3	44.0	41.0
Female	55.7	56.0	59.0

Area of City (%)	2000	2001	2002
South	41.9	41.7	44.6
North	28.5	27.8	24.0
West	29.6	30.4	31.3

Age (%)	2000	2001	2002
18-39	43.2	42.4	37.9
40-60	38.5	38.5	40.7
60 or older	18.3	19.1	21.4

Income (%)	2000	2001	2002
\$30,000 or less	37.4	33.5	31.2
\$30,001-\$50,000	27.9	24.7	31.0
Over \$50,000	34.6	41.8	37.8

Education (%)	2000	2001	2002
High School or less	24.7	24.7	26.5
Some post secondary	23.2	22.7	22.1
College-tech grad	23.4	21.8	27.7
University grad	28.8	30.8	23.8

Dependent Children (%)	2002
Yes	34.5
No	65.5

Questionnaire

- Lethbridge Police Services continues to develop its policies on the use and locations of its photo radar traffic enforcement. Do you think the police should continue to use photo radar in the same manner it is currently being used, increase its use, decrease its use, or stop using photo radar all together.
- Lethbridge city police should begin using “red light cameras” that would ticket people who run through red lights.
- Do you have any dependent children currently living with you?
- How many dependent children?
- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Income
- Area of city