



# BLAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: November 4, 2014

## Blue Light Pilot Project Announcement (Stop Light Enforcement Tool)

The Blaine Police Department is committed to reducing roadway fatalities and severe injuries and enhancing officer safety while conducting traffic enforcement.

In late 2013, the Blaine PD learned about the Blue Light program while in attendance at a Towards Zero Death quarterly meeting. The Maplewood Police Department has been utilizing this technology for several years along with the Burnsville Police Department.

In early 2014, the Blaine PD decided to pilot the Blue Lights at (2) intersections along Hwy 65 where most of our vehicle crashes occur to see if increased stop light enforcement would reduce accident rates at those locations.

Blue Lights are lights installed on stop lights and mirror the red light so officers can more safely conduct stop light enforcement. Officers can position themselves “downstream” from the stop light so the vehicle running the red light comes to them after the violation instead of the officer having to travel through the intersection with cars crossing in order to stop the offending vehicle. It also allows us to more effectively utilize our resources as a single officer can more safely work stop light enforcement where in the past, (2) officers, (1) spotter and (1) enforcement car would be used.

This was a coordinated effort between the Blaine Police Department and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT).

This project is an example of how Blaine Police Department works hand in hand with our engineering and educational partners as part of the Statewide Towards Zero Death (TZD) initiative to reduce traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries on our roadways.

This is a 1 year pilot project to see if this technology will be utilized at additional intersections within the City of Blaine in the future.

Any further questions can be directed to Sergeant Jeff Warner, our traffic safety program coordinator at [jwarner@ci.blaine.mn.us](mailto:jwarner@ci.blaine.mn.us).

Chris Olson, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief  
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