



# HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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## Speed cameras now in place to protect workers on East Market Street *Harrisonburg Police Department to begin sending warning letters to drivers immediately*

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A new safety-related system is now in place to help protect road crews working to improve a stretch of East Market Street near Interstate 81.

Speed cameras at both ends of the East Market Street work zone, stretching from Carlton Street to Linda Lane, were installed on Wednesday following a vote by the Harrisonburg City Council focused on addressing speeding and protecting road crews. A one-week study of the corridor during work zone hours showed more than 22,000 drivers going between 37 to 49 miles per hour (mph), nearly 600 drivers going more than 50 mph, and nearly a dozen drivers going more than 60 mph. The posted speed limit, set at a speed designed to best protect vulnerable workers in the corridor, is 25 mph.

A wreck at such speeds being recorded thousands of times a day along the stretch of roadway could lead to serious injury or death of individuals working in the area.

“It’s very clear following this speed study that steps have to be taken to improve safety while crews are working in this corridor,” Harrisonburg Public Works Director Tom Hartman said. “We’re working hard to remind drivers: Friendly City, Friendly Speeds. Installation of these cameras has proven to reduce speeds in other communities where additional safety measures have been needed, so we are eager to see them lead, hopefully, to a reduction in speeds and an increase in safety on East Market Street.”

Vehicles recorded going over the enforcement speed limit during active road work hours will be logged into a system monitored by the Harrisonburg Police Department, which will then send a notice to the driver. A warning period will be in place for 60 days in order to let the community become more accustomed to the change in speeds in this area, during which a speeding driver will only receive a warning letter. Following the warning period drivers will begin receiving a speeding citation that will carry a \$100 civil penalty.

HPD hopes the warning letters quickly lead to changed habits from drivers, in turn keeping all in the community safe.

“The Virginia Department of Transportation saw 104 highway workers injured in 2022 due to wrecks – and two individuals died,” HPD Chief Kelley Warner said. “This cannot happen in our community. Drivers need to be mindful that



(Above) A speed camera located on East Market Street. City officials hope the cameras lead to a reduction in speeds through the work zone, protecting workers in the area. (Left) An example of a warning letter drivers will receive if they speed in the work zone.

their speeds can, and have, led to tragedies in work zones. Please, don't let your speed risk your life and the lives of people working to make our community better.”

Virginia Department of Transportation work in this area is expected to continue until 2026. The project will include work zone hours during the day and some evenings throughout the course of the project.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

You can also follow **Harrisonburg Public Works** on Facebook.

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