

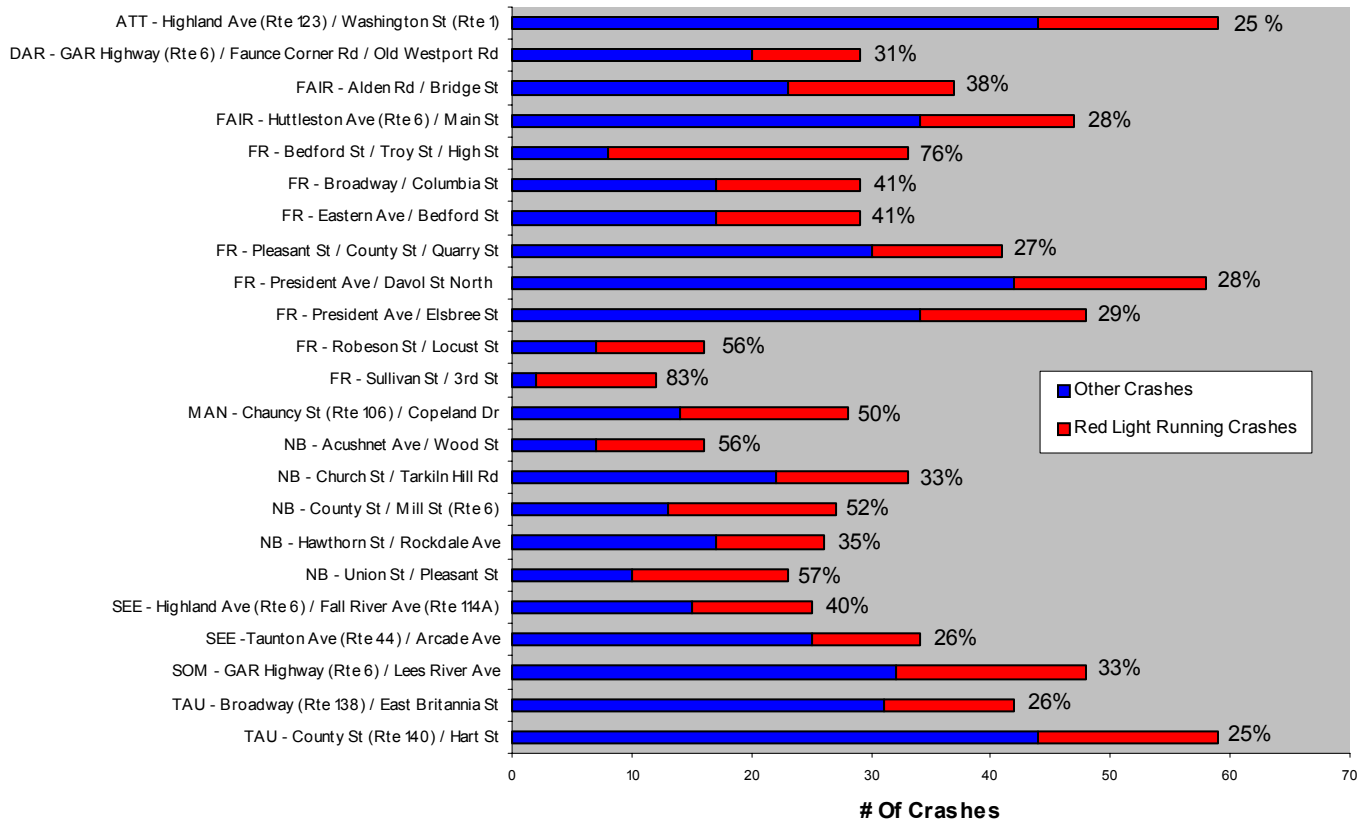
Red Light Running

Red light running is when a motorist proceeds through an intersection after the light turns red. Many factors can influence red light running. Most crashes are caused in some way by driver error; however, driver error can be influenced by factors such as technology (cell phones and texting), inadequate road design or ineffective traffic controls. Studies have shown red light running crashes to be either intentional or unintentional. Intentional red light running is frequently due to deliberate circumstances such as motorists trying to beat the signal; driver frustration due to congestion; driving under the influence, etc. Unintentional red light running is often due to inattention, possibly the result of ineffective or poorly visible signal equipment; obstructed vision (due to sunlight, weather conditions or vegetation), or inappropriate signal timing.

SRPEDD's 2002-2004 crash data revealed 618 red light running crashes. During the latest 2006-2008 period, red light crashes more than doubled (1,287). The graph below displays 23 intersections in the region (listed alphabetically by community) with a minimum of 25% of all total crashes attributed to red light running.

NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) reports that red light running crashes alone caused 883 deaths annually nationwide.

Highest 'Red Light Running' Crash Locations in Southeastern Massachusetts



Corrective measures range from improved signal visibility and more efficient operation to public awareness and added enforcement. Previous studies have suggested the need for Red Light Camera legislation in Massachusetts that would allow remote ticketing at intersections where intentional red light violations are frequent. Previous efforts to implement red light camera legislation in Massachusetts have failed. Typically, the argument against passage has involved invasion of privacy; presumption of innocence; and concern over misuse of ticketing as a revenue source. There are arguments for and against the issue, but ultimately, **motorists who intentionally violate a red light are breaking the law, endangering others, and driving up the cost of automobile insurance to every motorist in the state.**

The problem of red light running has long been recognized. In 1995, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) created the Stop Red Light Running Program to help educate the public on the dangers of red light running and increase enforcement at a grassroots community level. National Stop on Red Week takes place the first week of August each year and is dedicated to educating Americans about the dangers of red light running through education and enforcement.