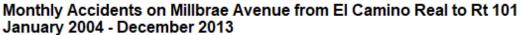
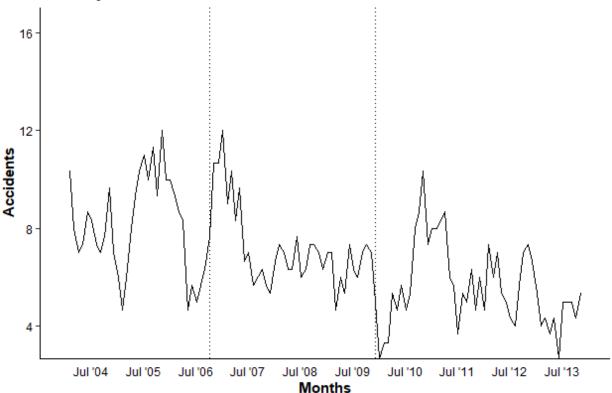
Supplement to "The Millbrae Red Light Cameras are a Useless Cash Grab"





Note:

Dotted lines denote dates redlight cameras installed.

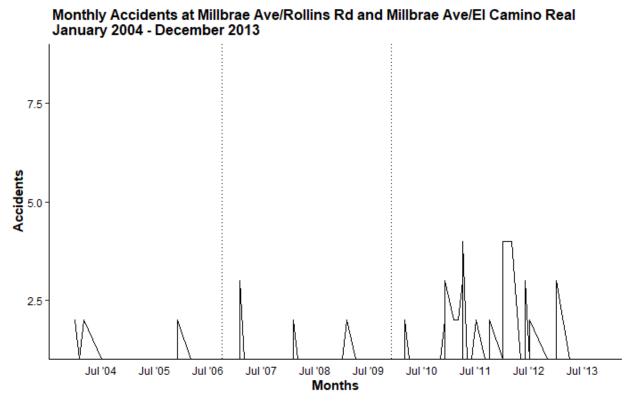
Source:

SWITRS

I explored data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) focusing on accidents around Millbrae Avenue between El Camino Real and Route 101. The cameras are located at the intersections of Millbrae Avenue and El Camino Real, Millbrae Avenue and Route 101 southbound, and Millbrae Avenue and Rollins Road, which means this stretch of road should provide a comprehensive view of the cameras' performance. I focus on the years 2004 to 2014 to capture the years the cameras were installed and the years immediately before and after their installation.

Strikingly, accidents actually increase for the better part of a year after the first cameras were installed at the intersection of Millbrae Avenue and Rollins Road in September 2006 after hitting a low in the summer of 2006.

A similar story occurs after the installation of the cameras at the intersections of Millbrae Avenue/El Camino Real and Millbrae Avenue/Route 101 southbound in late Fall 2009. While the number of accidents on this stretch of Millbrae Avenue drops immediately after the cameras' installation, accidents return to and then exceed the pre-cameras baseline in 2010 and oscillate randomly around this value in the succeeding years. There is no clear trend before or after the cameras that provides compelling evidence of their effectiveness.



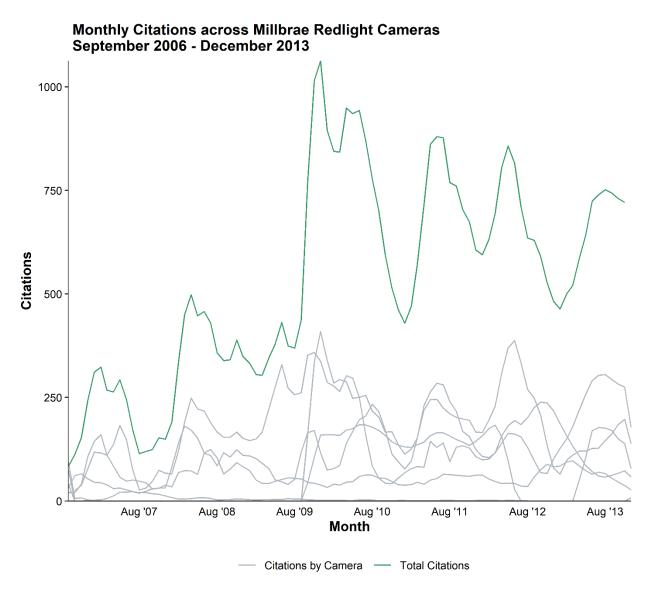
Note:

Dotted lines denote dates redlight cameras installed

Source: SWITRS

Many of the accidents in the first graph occurred near Route 101. However, six of Millbrae's seven cameras are located at the intersections of Millbrae Avenue and Rollins Road and Millbrae Avenue and El Camino Real. This second graph focuses on only

accidents that occurred on Millbrae Avenue and El Camino Real or Rollins Road. The number of accidents was nearly zero both before and after the cameras were installed, which underscores the question of why Millbrae would install cameras at these intersections in the first place if the intent was to improve public safety.



Source: highwayrobbery.net

While accidents per month appear to increase or decrease roughly at random before and after the cameras were installed, the number of citations over this same time period increased precipitously. The above figure shows that total citations jumped dramatically in the Fall of 2009 and remain elevated. While I do not have access to gross revenue, it seems fair to speculate from the above graph that the cost to local drivers is

high. It is difficult to see such a dramatic rise in citations coinciding with no consistent change in accidents and come to a conclusion other than the most cynical: Millbrae's red light cameras are designed to make the city money not to protect its citizens.