BACKGROUND:
In 2007, the General Assembly enacted Virginia Code §15.2-968.1 enabling localities to establish, by ordinance, traffic light signal photo-monitoring systems. The Virginia Code permits one traffic light photo enforcement location per 10,000 residents upon completion of the required traffic safety engineering studies. The County adopted an ordinance to authorize a traffic light signal monitoring system on August 5, 2009. Under this authority, the County Executive can approve the installation of photo-monitoring systems at up to ten intersections in the County.

On December 12, 2010, the Albemarle County Police Department activated the Photosafe Program, a traffic light signal monitoring system, at the intersection of Seminole Trail and Rio Road. Due to the success of the Photosafe Program, staff has identified another location where the Photosafe Program is recommended for photo enforcement. Staff is also reviewing how the current location at the intersection of Seminole Trail and Rio Road will be impacted by the Route 29 Solutions Project.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Operational Capacity - Ensure County government’s ability to high quality services that achieves community priorities.

DISCUSSION:
Following a traffic safety analysis of the County’s top crash locations controlled by a traffic signal, as well as a survey of red light violations and an engineering analysis, the Police Department identified the intersection of Richmond Road and Stony Point Road as the most suitable location for an additional traffic signal monitoring system site. In 2013, the intersection of Richmond Road and Stony Point Road was selected as a recommended second photo monitoring system location. However, due to construction in that area, implementation of the system was postponed. In selecting the Richmond Road and Stony Point Road intersection for inclusion in the Photosafe Program, the Police Department considered the factors set forth in Virginia Code § 15.2-968.1(J), including (i) the accident rate at the intersection, (ii) the rate of red light violations occurring at the intersection, (iii) the difficulty experienced by law enforcement officers in apprehending violators, and (iv) the ability to apprehend violators safely within a reasonable distance from the violation.

Prior to the activation of the Photosafe Program at the Richmond Road and Stony Point Road intersection, the County must do the following: (1) complete an engineering safety analysis that addresses signal timing and other location-specific safety features; (2) if recommended by the analysis, make reasonable location-specific improvements, including signs and pavement markings; (3) install conspicuous notification signs within 500 feet of the intersection; and (4) conduct a public awareness program advising the public that the Photosafe Program is being expanded to the intersection.

The Virginia Department of Transportation intends to begin construction on a grade separated interchange at the intersection of Seminole Trail and Rio Road in April or May of 2016. The traffic light signal monitoring system at that location will need to be removed when that construction begins. If the County elects to permanently discontinue the use of the Seminole Trail/Rio Road traffic light signal monitoring system, the County could owe Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. any unamortized costs related to that location pursuant to the current contract. The amount, if any, of unamortized costs is currently being determined. Another option is to negotiate with Redflex to move the Seminole Trail/Rio Road traffic light signal monitoring system to another location. One possible site being considered is the intersection of Seminole Trail and Burnley Station Road. Consideration of this and other possible locations is on-going and there is no recommendation at this time.
The County’s current contract with Redflex expires on December 30, 2016. The County has the option to renew the current contract for two additional two (2) year terms. Notice for the first extension must be given to Redflex by December 1, 2016. The contract and all renewal terms will expire on December 31, 2020.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**
No County funds have been required to support this program. Redflex assumes the preliminary costs associated with expansion of the Photosafe Program (cameras, signs, engineering safety analysis, signs, etc.). Net revenue to the County from the Photosafe Program was $70,271.71 in FY 13 and $45,901.01 in FY 14. This revenue is designated solely for traffic safety programs. The expansion of the Photosafe Program will continue to be supported by revenue from civil penalties assessed for violations of the Traffic Light Signal Monitoring Systems Ordinance, and any additional net revenue would be designated solely for traffic safety programs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**
Unless given different direction by the Board, the County Executive intends to authorize the expansion of the Photosafe Program to include a traffic light signal photo-monitoring system at the intersection of Richmond Road and Stony Point Road upon its meeting all of the Virginia Code requirements.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
A - Photo Red Power point