

Washington State Patrol

Homeland Security Division

Automated License Plate Readers



April 6, 2011

Overview

- How ALPR is used by the Washington State Patrol
- Policy Guidelines
- Legal Issues
- Implementation Challenges

Washington State Patrol

ALPR Use – Overview

- Regional Auto Theft Teams (3 Units)
 - Genetech Autovu Mobile Systems
- Commercial Vehicle Division – Weigh Stations for Trucks
- Homeland Security Section
 - Security for Washington State Ferries
 - 7 units permanently attached at toll booths
 - PIPS Technology

Washington State Ferries – Overview

- Transit agency
 - 22 million passengers annually
 - Over 500 transits per day
 - Largest U.S. ferry system, 4th largest in the world
- Marine highway
 - Essential link in highway network
 - 10 million vehicles transported across 200 miles of marine highway (20 terminals, 22 vessels)
- Mover of freight and goods
 - Only freight link for Vashon, San Juan Islands
 - Vessels and terminals built to handle truck volumes



Vessel and Terminal Security

- Large system with limited security resources
- 24/7 security measures at terminals was limited to Video Monitoring
- ALPR provides notice of vehicles of concern entering terminals
- Challenge to respond before vehicles loaded on vessels

Basic Policy Guidelines

- Guidelines/Model Policies for Law Enforcement
 - Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs,
 - International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Administration (Oversight, Training, Protocols)
- System Usage (Official Purposes)
- Retention/Sharing of Data
 - Access to data
 - Shared databases
 - Retention Period

Legal Issues

- 4th Amendment Question – Does a database search of a license plate implicate privacy protections?
- Probable Cause from an ALPR Hit
 - Complete, Correct, and Timely Information
 - Is the “Hot List” up to date or is the check run real time
 - Does your ALPR consistently differentiate between states
 - Misreads of characters
 - Is there probable cause if the plate was manually entered?

Implementation Challenges

- Privacy Issues – Analysis Software
- Retention of Data/Data Sharing/Vehicle Tracking
 - Community Concerns - ACLU
 - State Legislators
 - U.S. Representative
 - Public Perception - Newspapers
- Physical Location
 - Open to Vandalism
 - Marine Environment

Contact Information

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