

**Project:** Automated Vehicle License Plate Reader

**Scope:** To establish a vehicle mounted mobile Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system and associated infrastructure for wireless updates and data storage.

**Analyst:** Calvin DeGraffenreid (PTU)

**Subject Matter Experts:** DET Shane Lee (ATIP), Hector Hernandez (APD IT), Mark Boyds (COA Wireless), Jeremy English (Tyler PD IT Support)

**Purpose:** To increase the effectiveness of auto theft recovery operations and establish a searchable vehicle database.

**Value:** ALPR systems increase the number of license plate checks conducted by patrol officers by as much as twelve times. This will deliver reductions in crime, enhanced community safety and safer roads. Additionally the associated Back Office software allows for the creation and indexing of a vast database of vehicle location information which could prove invaluable to investigators attempting to locate vehicle information relating to ongoing cases.

During a 6 day pilot project conducted utilizing a test vehicle provided by the Plate Scan Company, officers logged over 33,000 license plate scans and recovered two stolen license plates and five stolen vehicles with a total presumptive value of \$35,650

**Timing:** Grant funding expires at the end of August. Project goal is to move forward to deployment by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

**Business Process Impact:** Deployed in a patrol role, this system would significantly increase the number of stolen vehicle recoveries by patrol. It would additionally create a database resource for investigators to research vehicles that does not currently exist in any form. Due to the likelihood of increased recoveries, this will likely increase the workload of patrol in regard to the number of man-hours spent processing Auto Theft Recoveries.

**Risk:** The primary concern with this project is data storage. The ALPR systems are capable of collecting thousands of individual scans per shift which are stored in a searchable database. The manufacturer estimates that between 50,000-60,000 scans is equal to roughly 1 GB of storage. A single unit can capture roughly 5,000 scans in a single shift, generating an estimated 75 GB of stored data per year. The goal of three units operating in 24 hour shifts, 7 days a week would generate roughly 225 GB of data annually.

**Funding:** \$42,979 in supplemental grant funding from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority for the Austin Police Department Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project, plus additional seized funds totaling approximately \$73,000

**Leadership and Customer Commitment:** This project is being sponsored by SGT Oliver Tate of the Auto Theft Division. DET Shane Lee has been identified as the Auto Theft POC.