

Austin Police Department-Auto Theft/Police Technology Unit Automated Vehicle License Plate Reader (PlateScan) Pilot



Situation: Auto Theft Unit and Police Technology Unit will be conducting a pilot project utilizing an Automated Vehicle License Plate Reader (ALPR)-equipped vehicle provided by the PlateScan Company. The purpose of the pilot is threefold:

1. Determine the training requirements for the system and begin the process of creating a training program and SOPs
2. Determine the value of the data collected (i.e.: Number of stolen recoveries, felony arrests, additional charges resulting from the stops)
3. Determine the total volume of data collected during the week-long project in order to extrapolate the volume of data likely to be collected once the project goes into implementation.

Operation Dates: April 22-April 30th 2009 (See attached schedule)

Roles: The ALPR-Equipped (*PlateScan*) vehicle will be an unmarked Crown Vic which is not equipped with emergency lights, siren, or mobile video recorder. The vehicle will be utilized as a spotter only using the PlateScan equipment.

The "*close cover*" vehicle will be an unmarked Crown Vic equipped with emergency lights, siren, and mobile video, and will serve as close-cover for the spotter vehicle as well as providing backup for marked units as needed.

Operation Outline: The PlateScan vehicle will be manned, according to the operation schedule, by 1 Auto Theft Detective and 1 PTU Officer, and will continually operate in the identified "hot-spot" areas collecting vehicle data. The close cover vehicle be manned by Auto Theft or PTU personnel and will remain available in the vicinity of the PlateScan vehicle area to provide assistance and to provide backup for marked patrol as necessary during high-risk stops.

When a TCIC hit is received using the PlateScan equipment, the hit will immediately be confirmed through communications.

For occupied stolen vehicles, marked patrol assistance will be requested to initiate all high-risk traffic stops.

The close cover vehicle will not be utilized to initiate high-risk stops unless exigent circumstances exist that require immediate action.

The PlateScan vehicle will **not** participate in the initiation of high-risk stops unless exigent circumstances exist that require immediate action, however may assist in the process of taking the vehicle occupants into custody after marked units have successfully stopped the vehicle.

Arrest/Transport officers will have the responsibility of direct-filing all charges associated with the stops and completing a General Offense Report. A supplemental report will be generated by both the PlateScan unit and the close-cover vehicle if it participated in/recorded the stop.

Additionally the PlateScan unit will maintain a log of all activity generated by the unit including a list of all charges filed by the arresting officer. Prior to beginning their shift, the operators of the PlateScan vehicle will ensure that the vehicle is stocked with all necessary paperwork including affidavits and booking sheets to provide the arrest/transport officer to expedite the process.

In the event that only a single marked unit is available to initiate the stop and the suspect vehicle attempts to evade, the close-cover vehicle **may**, at the discretion of the control supervisor, serve as a second unit in the pursuit to assist the primary unit until it can be replaced by a marked unit, at which point it will immediately reduce to Code 1 operations and discontinue pursuit.

*Nothing in this operations plan should be construed as superseding the guidelines established in G.O. B103a (Pursuit Policy) and, where applicable, G.O. B103b (Foot Pursuits)

The close-cover vehicle will be responsible for completing the impound sheet and remaining with the vehicle to wait for Southside.

For unoccupied stolen vehicles, the close-cover vehicle will be responsible for printing the vehicle, completing the impound sheet, and waiting for Southside.

Area Command Responsibilities: Area Command Patrol officers will respond to assist **as needed** to conduct high risk traffic stops on stolen vehicles identified by the PlateScan equipped unit. Arrest and booking procedures will be handled by the primary patrol officer identified at the scene. Auto Theft will provide pre-filled affidavits and booking sheets to expedite the officers in the direct-filing of charges.

Communication: All units will operate on the appropriate frequency for their geographic enforcement location. The success of this operation will depend heavily on assistance from available patrol units and it is vital that they be kept up to date on the PlateScan unit's activities.

Personnel

Supervisors

LT Pat Cochran (PTU)
SGT Oliver Tate (ATIP)
SGT Art Arevalo (PTU)

PTU

SPO Calvin DeGraffenreid
SPO Troy Reeves
SPO Gina Gaddy
SPO Simone Graboskie
SPO JJ Schmidt

ATIP

DET Shane Lee
DET Sean Lott
DET Steve Mares
DET Ray Tynes
DET Craig Fox
DET Brent Mullinix

PTU will provide two personnel for each scheduled shift and ATIP will provide one per shift. Personnel assignments will be handled within the respective unit.