



- No to 100% of LPR
 - full process approved for VT
 - see ALPR Jan 2009 attach
 - must proportionately fund
 - Limit VMS use strictly to DWI
 under 100% funding

State of Vermont
 Governor's Highway Safety Program
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Department of Public Safety
 - suggest proportionate funding
 to allow use for other
 uses dependent on
 funds used.

July 20, 2009

*FW
 7/23*

Mr. Philip J. Weiser, Regional Administrator
 NHTSA Region I
 Transportation Systems Center
 Kendall Square, 55 Broadway
 Cambridge, MA 02142

RE: Vermont FFY 2009 Equipment Purchase Request

Dear Mr. Weiser:

Your approval is requested for the use of FFY 2009 \$164 AL funds in support of the Vermont Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Critical Emphasis Area 5: Reduce Impaired Driving.

If you approve of these purchases, we expect to have them in place and the BATMOBILES on the road for the National Impaired Driving Mobilization.

Strategies identified in the SHSP for this CEA are:

- Improve public awareness of impairment
- Improve public awareness of the consequences of impaired driving
- Create the public perception that DUI apprehension is likely
- Create the public perception that punishment is likely

One of our activities is increased use of Sobriety Checkpoints, and increasing the public's perception of DUI enforcement activity. The use of sobriety checkpoints is not an activity that is well-embraced by our already-over-tasked law enforcement community. In order to create interest in this strategy, GHSP plans to refurbish our four ten-year old BATMOBILES (purchased predominantly with OJJDP funds) to make them "hi-tech" and redeploy them regionally, encouraging enforcement partners to organize sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols utilizing the new tools the BATMOBILES will give them.



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We plan to change the vehicles' external appearance by incorporating NHTSA impairment and occupant protection messages and artwork, and enhance their effectiveness and desirability at checkpoints and public gatherings by outfitting them with the newest tools to maximize performance and increase visibility:

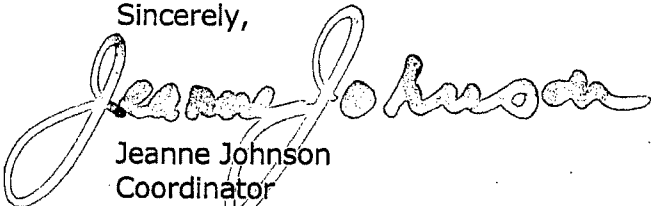
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Eight six-foot Variable Message Boards | \$70,000 |
| 2. Four License Plate Readers with computers | \$130,000 — |

The Highway Safety share for each of these purchases will be 100%, since these resources will be dedicated to highway safety activity only, available to all enforcement agencies on a "lending library" basis. All maintenance and use expenses will be born at the local level.

Justification for each type of equipment is attached for your review. Your consideration of this request will be very much appreciated, and we feel each item will contribute to the goals and objectives contained in our Highway Safety Plan for FFY 2009 and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

We look forward to your approval with great enthusiasm.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Johnson
Coordinator
jejohnso@dps.state.vt.us

Variable Message Boards

Total Cost: Up to \$70,000
GHSP Share: 100%
Funding Source: 100% §164AL funds

8 units

Purpose: These high-visibility electronic units are usable in mounted position or free-standing. They will be mounted on both sides of the BATMobiles for sobriety checkpoints and public education activities throughout the year, and removed for temporary use on roadways and field and interior use at educational events such as field days, home and safety shows, and other venues where high visibility will pay dividends in reaching the public.

The share will be 100% highway safety because they will be dedicated to the BATmobiles and highway safety use.

These six-foot units will cost approximately \$8,000 each, and we plan to purchase two for each of the four BATMobiles, with mounting equipment to secure them safely to the vehicles, as well as stands for free-standing use.

We believe these message boards will increase visibility and communication flow at DUI and safety checkpoints, and will maximize the visual impact of each checkpoint, increasing word-of-mouth sharing of the message.

Even when just parked in high-visibility storage locations, the signs can be used to support the National Mobilizations and local enforcement activities, increasing visibility and public awareness.

At community and county outdoor events such as fairs and field days, sporting events, national night out and other large gatherings, the boards can be used either independently or with the BATMobiles to heighten visibility and generate traffic for police educational activities.

When not in use outdoors in conjunction with the BATMobile, one or both message boards can be removed to use indoors to bring visibility to enforcement educational activities, such as school activities, health and safety fairs, the annual meeting of Vermont League of Cities and Towns, our Lifesaver Award Lunch, Vermont Law Enforcement Challenge Awards, and other events where we want to be sure our message is not missed.

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License Plate Readers with Mobile Data Terminals and Licenses for BATMobiles

Total Cost: \$30,000-\$36,000 per BATMobile for four vehicles; up to \$200,000
GHSP Share: 100%
Funding Source: 100% \$164AL funds
Purpose: Enhancing law enforcement interest in BATMobiles and increasing participation in sobriety checkpoints by giving agencies tools not otherwise available to them and increasing the effectiveness of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

The use of a license plate reader (LPR) requires a mobile data terminal (MDT), and the MDT requires a license. The cost for this equipment is as follows:

LPR	Up to \$29,718 each, depending on unit selected
MDT	Up to \$6,000 each
MDT License	Up to \$1,500 per unit per year

License Plate Readers are expected to increase the effectiveness of sobriety and safety checkpoints in a number of ways:

LPRs can process license plates about one hundred times more rapidly than an officer can, thereby increasing effectiveness of enforcement hours and productivity of checkpoints and patrols. At a checkpoint or on patrol, an officer will be able to determine instantly if a license plate is valid and if the operator has a valid license. - false

Since, due to price, LPRs are not currently available to most law enforcement agencies, we expect that the installation of this equipment in the BATMobiles will stimulate renewed interest in planning sobriety checkpoints. It is also our hope that the installation of this equipment will generate new ideas as to how to more effectively use these highly-visible vehicles, as well as encourage increased cooperation between and among the agencies.

To the best of our knowledge, St. Albans is the only section of the state using LPRs. As a direct result, enforcement in that area is more effective even in poor weather, which often leads to the cancellation of a planned enforcement activity. Naturally, probable cause for an arrest would still have to be established; however, this equipment may assist police officers in developing the reasonable suspicion required to stop motorists with outstanding violations or suspended licenses.

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The St. Albans DDACTS pilot project, in a single night with a license plate reader, had the following experience:

"2,672 license plates read

- ◇ 96 alarms on license plates of suspended drivers
- ◇ 4 citations issued for civilly suspended operators
- ◇ 2 arrests for criminally-suspended operators
- ◇ 1 arrest for a criminal operator who was suspended for DUI and was also DUI at the time of the stop, and the results of the breath test were 0.123% BAC. Operator/Suspect has not held a valid license since 2000.
- ◇ The results showed 1 out of every 27 vehicles in the St. Albans area was possibly being operated by a suspended driver.

"The DDACTS project managers noted that it was a rainy, damp, dark night which routinely would not present much in the way of law enforcement activity. In most cases, officers could not even tell if the operator was male or female. Without the aid of the LPRs, they could not even clearly see the license plate numbers from any distance at all.

"Officers were not able to develop reasonable suspicion for motor vehicle stops for each alarmed case, but successful and actionable law enforcement activity dramatically improved. Local enforcement was surprised at the number of potential DLS operators on the highways.

"Expired license plates, suspended operators, insurance, points and moving violations, DUI offenders, wants and warrants for traffic tickets are among the data programmed to trigger an alarm. Vermont DMV provides a list of dui-suspended operators and their associated registration numbers, which is programmed into the devices, making them highly effective in highway safety and impaired driving operations."

One license plate reader would be assigned to each BATMobile.

In addition to increasing the effectiveness of sobriety or safety checkpoints, as well as the saturation patrols that usually follow, we feel the LPRs will stimulate interest in checkpoints. Specifically, we are confident that agencies will want to utilize the new equipment and, therefore, will schedule many more checkpoints throughout the year. We expect that more checkpoints will result in more impaired driving arrests, many more impaired driving incidents prevented, and an increase in law enforcement cooperative efforts. All of these results are good for Vermont.