

## **License Plate Readers for Vermont DDACTS Project**

Total Cost: \$20,000 to 25,000 per unit for two units  
GHSP Share: To be determined  
Funding Source: §402 funds  
Purpose: The project managers of the St. Albans Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety Pilot Project have requested two license plate readers to maximize productivity of their team operations. Utilizing two borrowed devices from New York state, they compiled the following statistics during one November night:

- ◇ 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 Vermont State Police-St. Albans, and the other to St. Albans Police Department.