



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Traffic Safety
3215 Executive Park Drive / P.O. Box 19245 / Springfield, Illinois / 62794-9245

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2008

NHTSA REGION 5

May 7, 2008

Mr. Alex Cabral
Program Manager
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration
Great Lakes Region
19900 Governors Drive, Suite 201
Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461-1061

Dear Mr. Cabral:

The Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) is always looking for new and creative ways to prevent fatalities and to reduce severe injuries. Technological advances have proved effective in accomplishing this goal. In 2006, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department requested funding to hire back off-duty deputies to track down DUI offenders wanted on warrant. St. Clair County has more than 1000 people still wanted on arrest warrants and a substantial number of them are probably still driving. Unfortunately, the cost of funding a suitable number of officers for this request was prohibitive.

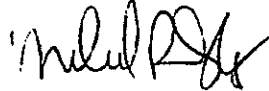
After a great deal of research, we propose a creative alternative to the huge expense of hiring off-duty deputies. DTS believes license plate recognition (LPR) technology can provide law enforcement with a viable alternative to seeking people wanted on arrest warrants. This goal can be achieved with the county's existing on-duty patrol force. In FY08, DTS funded four police departments-Springfield Police Department, Peoria Police Department, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department with \$11,000 each to purchase and install LPR technology in a select number of vehicles. DTS believes that many more people wanted for traffic offenses will be arrested and removed from Illinois' highways throughout the year because of this technology. This will be accomplished using significantly fewer dollars than hiring off-duty deputies to serve warrants.

In order to determine the viability of this strategy, DTS has instructed each department to designate two identically marked patrol vehicles to be used exclusively for traffic enforcement on multiple shifts. One vehicle will be equipped with LPR technology and the other, control vehicle, will not be so equipped. Monthly arrest reports will be sent to DTS's Evaluation Unit in order to track the success of the program. At the end of the first complete year, a comparative analysis evaluation report will be issued along with a recommendation regarding the viability of LRP for locating individuals wanted on arrest warrants.

Mr. Alex Cabral
May 7, 2008
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DTS is requesting approval to purchase four LPR units with federal highway safety funds at a cost of \$11,000 per unit. Please contact Dan Kent, LEL Coordinator, at 217/962-0667, if you have questions concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Stout". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael R. Stout
Director

cc: Dan Kent



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Region 5
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

19900 Governors Drive, Suite 201
Olympia Fields, IL 60461-1061
Phone: 708-503-8822
Fax: 708-503-8991

May 30, 2008

Michael R. Stout, Director
Governor's Representative
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Safety
3215 Executive Park Drive
P.O. BOX 19245
Springfield, IL 62794-9245

Dear ~~Mr.~~ ^{Mike} Stout:

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2008, requesting approval to purchase four Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Devices for the following agencies:

- Springfield Police Department
- Peoria Police Department
- St. Clair County Sheriff's Department
- Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

(Each device costing \$11,000.00 each)

We feel that this would be an acceptable purchase based on the following conditions that were given to justify this request.

1. That NHTSA Region 5 Office receive assurances from Secretary of State's Office that the vehicle license plate file can be tied back to the driver's license file to alert the ALPR that registered owner of the vehicle has a suspended/revoked license for DWI or any multiple safety violations.
2. There will be an evaluation tool utilized to determine the effectiveness of these devices on NHTSA priority programs which will be conducted by DTS's Evaluation Unit.
3. That DTS's get a buy in from agencies involved providing a hard match of funds. 80/20.
4. The agencies involved in the project would continue to be funded at minimum of three-years to assure that the equipment and resources are fully utilized.
5. Use of this technology in cooperation between city/county agencies if possible for multi-jurisdictional and corridor enforcement activities.

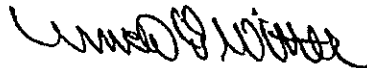


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As detailed in your request letter the Springfield PD, Peoria PD, St. Clair CO SO and Winnebago CO SO will be the recipient of said equipment. It is also understood that in order to ensure that interest in and use of the equipment continues, the Springfield PD, Peoria PD, St. Clair CO SO and Winnebago CO SO will house and provide general maintenance of the equipment.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please do not hesitate in contacting me or your Regional Program Manager Alex Cabral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Witter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael G. Witter
Regional Administrator

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NOV 06 2009
NHTSA REGION 5



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Traffic Safety
1340 North 9th Street / P.O. Box 19245 / Springfield, Illinois / 62794-9245

November 5, 2009

Mr. Michael Witter
Regional Administrator
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration
Region 5
19900 Governors Drive, Suite 201
Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461

Dear Mr. Witter:

The Illinois Department of Transportation is requesting approval from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the purchase of equipment over \$5,000 per unit as required by 23 CFR 1200.21 and Highway Safety Funding Policy for NHTSA Field Administered Grants in FY 2010. The purchase of this equipment will assist our local highway safety projects in deterring impaired driving statewide.

Please contact Steve Esslinger at 217/785-1582 if you have any questions concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael R. Stout'.

Michael R. Stout
Director

Enclosures (3)

cc: Alex Cabral

FY 2010 Equipment items over \$5,000 per unit

Grantee	Equipment	Budget
Winnebago County Sheriff's Department	1 Eynet Enforcement System	\$ 11,000 (402)
Rock Island Police Department	1 Eynet Enforcement System	\$ 11,000 (410)
Niles Police Department	In-car video system	\$ 5,800 (410)
Millstadt Police Department	In-car video system	\$ 5,000 (410)

Equipment Request Format

The Rock Island Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department are requesting approval to purchase two Eynet Enforcement Systems. Rock Island Police Department is requesting a total of \$11,000 in section 410 funds and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is requesting a total of \$11,000 in section 402 funds be used for this purchase. The following is a breakdown of the funding source and amount that will be used to support the purchase of this equipment:

Section 402	\$ 11,000 (Task #10-04-04)
Section 410	\$ 11,000 (Task #10-13-08)

The Eynet Enforcement System is intended for traffic officer use only. The system delivers license plate recognition up to 100 license plates per minute, day/night operation and the flexibility to be integrated into virtually every existing fixed or mobile law enforcement camera.

Contact Dan Kent at 217/962-0667 if you have questions regarding this request.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Region 5
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI

19900 Governors Drive
Suite 201
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

November 9, 2009

Director Michael Stout
IDOT, DTS
1340 N. 9th Street
Springfield, IL 62794-9245

Dear Director ^{Mike} Stout:

Thank you for your two letters dated October 20 and November 5, 2009, requesting approval to purchase equipment valued \$5,000 or more. The follow equipment items have been approved:

- 1 Police Car for IACP Chief's Challenge Awards Program. \$25,000-Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
- 1 Digital Video Camera for IACP Chief's Challenge Awards Program. \$5,000-Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
- 2 ABS-equipped Harley Davidson FLHPI @ \$14,000 each-\$28,000-Illinois State Police.
- 9 EC/IR II Intoxilyzer Instruments at \$5,350 each-\$48,150-ISP
- 1 I-8000 breath testing instruments-\$5,225-ISP
- Local Mobilization Equipment Incentive Police Vehicle-\$24,500-DTS to give to locals as incentive awards.
- Local Mobilization Equipment Incentives 3 Radar Trailers @ \$10,000 each-\$30,000-DTS to give to locals as incentive awards.
- 1 In-car video system-\$5,800-Niles PD
- 1-In-car video system-\$5,000-Milstadt PD

In regards to your request for approval for the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Devices for the following agencies:

- Rock Island Police Department
- Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

(Each device costing \$11,000.00 each)

We feel that this would be an acceptable purchase based on the following conditions that were given to justify this request:

1. That NHTSA Region 5 Office receive assurances from Secretary of State's Office that the vehicle license plate file can be tied back to the driver's license file to alert the ALPR



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236
www.safercar.gov
www.safertruck.gov

that registered owner of the vehicle has a suspended/revoked license for DUI or any multiple safety violations.

2. There will be an evaluation tool utilized to determine the effectiveness of these devices on NHTSA priority programs which will be conducted by DTS's Evaluation Unit.
3. That DTS's get a buy in from agencies involved providing a hard match of funds. 80/20.
4. The agencies involved in the project would continue to be funded at minimum of three-years to assure that the equipment and resources are fully utilized.
5. Use of this technology in cooperation between city/county agencies if possible for multi-jurisdictional and corridor enforcement activities.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Alex Cabral at (708) 503-8891 x 17 or via email at alex.cabral@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Witter
Regional Administrator



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Michael Witter
From: John Webber
Subject: License Plate Recognition Systems
Date: October 25, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Webber".

In 2009, the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) developed a plan to find and arrest traffic offenders who were wanted on warrant. The focus was on failure to appear in court for driving under the Influence (DUI), driving while license suspended and driving while license was revoked.

In St. Clair County there were over 1,000 outstanding warrants for failure to appear for DUI. After meeting with several license plate recognition companies to gain a comprehensive understanding of equipment and technology capabilities, IDOT/DTS decided to test the hypothesis that a significant number of traffic offense violators who were wanted on traffic warrants could be apprehended through the use of this technology.

The National Highway Safety Administration approved funding for the purchase of four in-car license plate recognition systems (LPRS). The Winnebago and St. Clair County Sheriff's Departments, and the Rockford and Springfield Police Departments were selected as test sites. Beginning, October 1, 2009 (FFY2010), these test agencies received additional funds in their highway safety projects to purchase one LPRS system.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Police purchased the LPRS system on October 23, 2009. They were the first agency (and ultimately the only one) to purchase and install the equipment in a marked squad through a Traffic Law Enforcement Project (TLEP). FFY2010 was the third and final year of their TLEP grant which funded two full-time deputies. These deputies worked 12 hour shifts specifically assigned to traffic enforcement.

Unfortunately, it became apparent the system would not deliver information as advertised due to three main reasons:

1. The system is dependent on the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS), operated and maintained by the Illinois State Police (ISP). Instead of receiving real time information on registration plates, the system could only access "hot sheet" information sent to Winnebago County every 24 hours and not directly connected to LEADS. We were unable to convince the ISP to

Michael Witter
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October 25, 2012

allow the system to search in real time due to their concerns that heavy traffic on LEADS by LPRS could overwhelm and shut down the system. Given the age of LEADS, this concern is not outside the realm of possibility. This time delay meant the information was not in real time and also only covered a portion of what had been scanned by the system.

2. The Secretary of State's system is unable to provide drivers' information connected to LPRS scanned license plates, meaning deputies would be unable to determine if the driver was suspended, revoked or wanted without using the radio to contact a dispatcher with access to LEADS.
3. The system did not function well in low light even though it had been advertised as being able to operate at night using ambient light. The two TLEP Deputies worked many shifts at night and needed the system to operate in low light conditions. The system demonstrated to DTS prior to the purchase worked in low light conditions. This problem was corrected by the sheriff's department using county funds to purchase and install an infrared camera. Even with this enhancement, the LPRS did not completely function in low light.

Because of the countless issues with this technology, the three remaining systems were put on hold awaiting results from Winnebago County. Ultimately the funding for the other systems was cancelled by Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) Supervisor Daniel Kent.

Winnebago County concluded their TLEP grant on September 30, 2010, the end of FFY2010. Subsequently, they received funding for a Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) project in FFY11 and 12 and are currently funded for FFY13. The system remained operational since being installed in a marked squad and utilized by traffic officers in high crime areas of the county until recently. On October 17, 2012 Winnebago County informed LEL Dan Wood that they no longer want the LPRS. They will remove the system and deliver it to LEL Wood when he visits there in November.