

Case Study

Maryland needed a way to enhance motorist and worker safety in work zones.

We helped them put on the brakes.

Conduent Transportation deployed mobile speed enforcement vehicles in highway work zones to capture images of violators' license plates as they sped past vulnerable workers. Speeding in monitored zones decreased.

6.6 million citations issued since the program's inception in 2010.

Work zone speeding reduced by over 90 percent.



The challenge

The number of crashes in freeway work zones has always been a concern for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). National statistics show that driving too fast for conditions is a factor in about one-third of all fatal crashes; about 13,000 people die each year in speed-related accidents. Speed is the number one contributing factor in work zone crashes, and more than 1,000 people die in work zones nationally each year. That's nearly three deaths per day. Drivers who speed in work zones endanger themselves, their passengers and put the lives of roadside workers at risk by operating their vehicles recklessly, potentially creating hazardous conditions.

SHA considered allocating more law enforcement officers, but there are risks associated with pulling over motorists in work zones – an officer can only pull over a limited number of speeders. Speed cameras eliminate personal risks for officers by capturing images of motorists driving 12 miles an hour or more over the posted speed limit. They do so without exposing officers to hazardous work zone traffic conditions and can effectively capture every speeder.

The solution

SHA turned to automated speed enforcement using scanning laser detection to monitor work zones frequented by motorists driving too fast for conditions. Conduent Transportation is the only U.S. provider with scanning LIDAR deployed in North America. We chose this solution for its ability to determine the speed and position of every vehicle on the roadway without risk of erroneous measurement – a crucial element in maximizing issuance in the highway environment. The scanning LIDAR system can monitor up to five lanes of moving traffic. It reliably identifies all vehicles exceeding the speed limit by predetermined thresholds.

Conduent Transportation vehicles, equipped with the scanning laser system, rotate among highway work zones to promote compliance with the posted speed limits, ensuring the safety of both motorists and construction workers.

Our solution comprises end-to-end photo enforcement, maintenance of systems, violation processing, customer service and evidence management, court scheduling for appeals, public awareness campaigning and program management.

The bottom line

The State of Maryland wanted to protect its workers from injury and make roads safer for motorists passing through work zones. Workers are not the only ones potentially affected by motorists operating vehicles at excessive speeds; four out of five crash victims in work zones are people just getting from one place to another.



Former SHA Administrator Neil J. Pedersen said his employees and contractors have noticed a measurable decrease in vehicle speed in work zones where the cameras have been deployed. Pedersen said that SHA employees and contractors are pleased to have the cameras in work zones. "They've been very, very supportive of the program because they've seen that it has made a difference." The system has been widely endorsed by a variety of traffic safety groups, including the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Governors Highway Safety Association.

The results

When the program began, approximately seven out of every 100 drivers in targeted highway work zones were exceeding the speed limit by 12 miles per hour or more. Today, less than one driver out of every 100 is receiving a citation – a more than 90 percent reduction in the number of vehicles traveling 12 mph or more above the work zone speed limit. 6.6 million citations have been issued since the program's inception in 2010.

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