Howard County Police - Automated Enforcement Division

Reducing Collisions - By Reducing Violations

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ENFORCING WITH ITS:
A Case Study

- What is the enforcement role in ITS?
- What are the issues involved?
- How could enforcement be a better partner?
Citizen Concern brought significant problem to the attention of County and State Officials

- Most Injury Causing Collision Type
- Leading cause of urban crashes
- Frequent Violations
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Traditional Enforcement Ineffective

- Forces police to follow motorist through red light
- Manpower intensive
- Inconsistent enforcement
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The Three E Approach

- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Education
Alternatives Researched

- FHWA Funded Research/Pilot Programs
- Team Enforcement
- Enhanced Public Awareness Campaigns
- Successful Programs Studied From across the Country and World
Legislative Assistance Sought

- Determined need for State law.
- Drafted Legislation
- Wide Array of Support Voiced
- Issues Debated
- New Law Effective 10/1/97
Law Reflected Citizen Input

- Rear Photography Only - Tags not Occupants
- No Points - No Insurance Impact
- $75 Civil Citation
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Police Department Just One Player in the Team for Success

Only through the coordinated effort of multiple individuals, groups, and agencies is this possible.
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How It works

- Police Managed and Operated
- Technology Partnerships In Action
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Regional Automated Enforcement Center
Howard County Selects Sites

- Collision Data
- Citation Data
- Complaint Data
- Violation Studies
Camera only active
1/10 of a second
after light turns red
1st photo before stop bar
2nd photo as vehicle continues through intersection
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Private Company Personnel

- Maintains Camera
- Preview Incidents
- Data Entry
- Mailing Services
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County Police

- Manage Entire Process
- Review Every Citation
- Approve each violation notice
- Quality Assurance
- Court Presentation
- Citizen Contact
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Registered Owner

- Receives Citation in the mail.
- May pay $75 Fine
- May elect to stand trial in District Court
Court Process

- District Court
  - Judges
  - Clerks
  - State’s Attorney
- Howard County Police
Red Light Running Incidents Have Fallen 62%
Socio-Economic Impact

- MD SHA Evaluation
- $190,000 plus savings per site
Benefits

- Reduction in Collisions
- Enhanced Safety Through Deterrence
- Positive Influence without Excessive Penalty
- Redeployment of Police Officers
- Funded by violators
Issues

- Inconsistencies
- Privacy Concerns
- Lack Police Involvement
- Profit Motives
- Misunderstood?
What To Do Now?

- Lessons Learned?
- Other Applications?
- Achieving Balance
- Keeping Doors Open