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SYSTEMS

Automated Enforcement

Westminster City Council has carried out a successful 4 week proof of concept trial of two LaneWatch unattended enforcement cameras. The trial is now to be expanded to include a further 6 cameras for an additional 12 month period to further validate the benefits of automated enforcement.

Unattended camera enforcement is fast becoming the most cost effective way to influence driver behavior change. This relatively new technology has been deployed in over 200 locations across the country in the last 3 years and provides a bus lane and moving traffic contravention (MTS) enforcement service for 30 traffic authorities in the UK. The latest version of the market leading Zengrab LaneWatch camera can provide an array of different enforcement options including the enforcement of bus lanes, bus gates, no entry restrictions, one way street, yellow box junctions, and the latest addition - weight restriction enforcement.

Westminster City Council has carried out a four week proof of concept trial with LaneWatch cameras in two locations in the City: St Georges Drive which is being used to enforce a coach ban; and Carlton Hill junction with Maida Vale, which is being used to enforce a 7.5 tonne weight restriction.

The trial was used to quality assure the technology from the point of capture to the point of issue, though no actual PCN's were issued. Both locations related to code 52 contraventions, namely "failing to comply with a prohibition on certain types of vehicle".

The trial resulted in high levels of accurate capture of non-compliant vehicular movements at those locations, compared to the current enforcement tools of mobile CCTV, ANPR vehicles and wireless CCTV. The ZenGrab LaneWatch camera(s) used in the trial proved to be highly accurate and reliable, automatically capturing contraventions with over a 99% degree of accuracy.

St Georges Drive, Westminster

ZenGrab LaneWatch

During the trial a total of 1,076 contraventions were captured at the two locations. This compared favorably against the current enforcing methods which recorded only 284 contraventions during the previous 12 months. The reason for the low numbers of PCNs across both locations was given in a Cabinet Members Report as "being due to significant limitations with wireless CCTV enforcing MTCs; primarily the reaction of the camera to zoom is not fast enough to match the speed of vehicles to capture sufficient evidence for a definite contravention to be ascertained. It is also extremely difficult for CCTV operators to ascertain by the naked eye whether the vehicle in question exceeds the weight restriction in place, and a number of PCNs have been cancelled as a result of proof being provided by the owner that the vehicle is within the weight restriction".

The ZenGrab LaneWatch cameras do not suffer from the same limitations experienced with traditional attended CCTV cameras. They use digital technology to perform many of the tasks traditionally carried out by a CCTV Operator. The in-built close-up camera captures images of vehicle details, which are then processed by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) software. A second camera captures overview images both before and after a potential contravention has taken place which give the reviewer sufficient information on which to base their decision as to whether a contravention has taken place. These video images, together with the GPS synchronized time, date and location, are formed into an encrypted 'evidence pack' before being 3G wirelessly transmitted back to the control system for historic review.

ZenGrab Review

Carlton Hill, Westminster

The conclusions of the proof of concept trial state that "Automated capture has proved more effective and more efficient in identifying and recording non-compliance than other traditional enforcement measures. The cameras seamlessly record all contraventions, and the process required very little manual intervention. Automated cameras ensured coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at specific locations. Automated cameras have demonstrated that they can provide an efficient and cost effective way of capturing moving traffic contraventions".

The proof of concept trial will now be expanded to a full 12 month trial with an additional 6 LaneWatch cameras to further validate the benefits of automated enforcement.

Zenco Systems are the leading provider of attended and unattended traffic and parking enforcement technology in the UK. There are over 35 local authorities using the ZenGrab Digital Enforcement Suite and over 200 ZenGrab LaneWatch unattended enforcement cameras in daily use.