

**DATE:** November 2, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Automated License Plate Readers

**TO:** District Executives

**FROM:** Daniel Farley, P.E., Director  
Bureau of Operations *Daniel Farley P.E.*

This Strike-off Letter (SOL) is time and resource neutral and clarifies the deployment of automated license plate readers (ALPRs) in PennDOT's right-of-way (ROW).

ALPRs use cameras and computer software to scan the license plates of passing vehicles. This data can be automatically compared against designated lists such as vehicle registration, stolen cars, Amber Alerts, and unpaid parking tickets.

The following outlines the requirements for deployment of ALPRs in PennDOT's ROW.

**Attachment to Traffic Signal Structures**

Section 7.3 of [Publication 191: Traffic Signal Maintenance Manual](#) outlines the requirements for attaching equipment on traffic signal structures. This process shall continue to be followed.

**Attachment to other Existing (Non-Traffic Signal) Structures**

ALPRs are permitted to be attached to existing non-PennDOT structures in the ROW provided the owner of the ALPR has approval from the structure's owner. PennDOT approval is not required, provided the existing structure is already permitted. ALPRs are not permitted to be attached to any PennDOT structures. Installation of new structures for deployment of ALPRs is not permitted.

**Funding for License Plate Readers**

PennDOT will not fund ALPRs as the equipment is not considered transportation infrastructure or a traffic control device.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Douglas Tomlinson, P.E., Chief, Highway Safety and Traffic Operations Division, at 717.787.3657 or via email at [dtomlinson@pa.gov](mailto:dtomlinson@pa.gov).

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District Traffic Signal Supervisors  
District HOP Managers  
District Plans Engineers  
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