

Introduction to the practical application of ALPR technology

Law enforcement agencies throughout the nation and around the world are increasingly adopting Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems to enhance their enforcement and investigative capabilities, expand their collection of relevant data, and expedite the tedious and time consuming process of comparing vehicle license plates with lists of stolen, wanted, and other vehicles of interest.

Types of ALPR: The Most effective network of ALPR systems will use a combination of each type.

- Stationary or Fixed ALPR: The system is mounted on telephone poles, traffic lights, or other permanent fixtures.
- Semi-Stationary ALPR: These systems are towed to a variety of locations for use.
- Mobile ALPR: Mounted to patrol vehicles. External mounting or part of the in-car video system.

Uses for ALPR:

- Stolen Vehicles and Stolen License Plates
- O Amber Alerts
- Silver Alerts
- Human Trafficking
- Variety of Investigations
 - Use ALPR data to determine vehicles in the vicinity of a crime scene
 - Provide photos of vehicles to confirm suspect alibis
 - ALPR data can be used to analyze crime patterns

- What data does an ALPR System collect?
- ALPR systems typically capture the following information: a contextual photo of the vehicle, an image of the license plate, the geographic coordinates of where the image was captured, and the date and time of the recording. The systems also typically identify the specific camera/unit that captured the image. The ALPR camera does not identify any individual or access their personal information through its analysis of license plate numbers. The data captured by the ALPR unit itself is completely anonymous. There is no personally identifiable information contained in an ALPR record and the operator can only determine the registered owner of a vehicle by querying a separate, secure state government database of vehicle license plate records, which is restricted, controlled, and audited.



Questions?