



WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



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License Plate Readers (LPR)

FAQ Sheet

1. What is a License Plate Reader?

LPRs are stationary devices that capture computer readable images of license plates, body types, vehicle makes, vehicle color, license plate state and unique features like decals, bumper stickers, bike racks and other accessories that create a traceable vehicle fingerprint. This allows police professionals to capture and compare unbiased investigative leads such as plate numbers and other identifiable features against those of stolen cars or cars driven by people known or suspected of being involved in criminal activities.

2. How do the cameras gather information?

LPR cameras utilize the FBI's NCIC federal and state hotlists which are updated every 6 hours or 4 times per 24-hour period. This will send real time alerts to police agencies when a wanted or stolen vehicle is detected. This can also be used to:

- a. Make arrests for a variety of criminal offenses
- b. Recover stolen vehicles and/or property
- c. Follow up on Amber alerts for missing children or adults

3. Will LPR cameras be used to conduct surveillance?

No. LPRs are stationary devices that capture computer readable still photographs of license plates, body types, vehicle makes, vehicle color, license plate state and unique features like decals, bumper stickers, bike racks and other accessories as they pass by the camera that create a traceable vehicle fingerprint.

4. Will LPR cameras capture names, addresses or phone numbers?

No. LPRs do not record names, phone numbers or addresses. LPRs do not collect information on who is driving or riding in the vehicle as it is considered personally identifiable information. The cameras only capture the back of vehicles for objective evidence so it's not possible for the camera to detect race, gender, number of occupants in the vehicle, etc.

5. Is LPR and Facial Recognition the same thing?

No. LPR's only pick up computer readable images of license plates, body types, vehicle makes, vehicle color, license plate state and unique features like decals, bumper stickers, bike racks and other accessories that create a traceable vehicle fingerprint. Facial recognition focuses on the facial component of a person. LPR technology does not. LPRs do not include facial recognition or footage of passersby or pedestrians.

6. How will the Sheriff's Office use the LPR technology?

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to respecting citizens privacy and committed to treating all people equitably regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, politics, etc. LPR technology is purpose built to remove human bias from solving crimes. LPR technology is engineered to capture vehicle characteristics and license plates, which are cross checked against state and federal records to ensure data accuracy and minimize errors.



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7. Will the LPR's be mounted in the patrol vehicles?

No. The LPR technology will be stationary at the intersections coming into and exiting from Ypsilanti Township. They will be placed throughout the entire township and not solely focused on a specific neighborhood.

8. Will the LPRs monitor 24 hours a day/7 days a week?

No. Cameras will remain dormant but can start taking photographs in less than a tenth of a second and can capture multiple still photographs of a vehicle traveling up to 100mph. The cameras do not take live video.

9. Do the LPR cameras work only during the day?

The cameras infrared captures highly accurate clear still images day or night.

10. How are the cameras powered?

All of the cameras are solar powered.

11. How do I know that the information gathered from the LPR system won't be used outside of Ypsilanti Twp or law enforcement?

All storage is fully encrypted and cloud-based utilizing LTE. Data will only be shared with other law enforcement agencies when written approval is given. Data will not be sold to third parties.

12. Will LPR photos or alerts be the sole source for making an arrest or making a traffic stop?

No. An LPR "hit" or alert will not constitute reasonable suspicion or probable cause to conduct a traffic stop or take enforcement actions. A deputy may not detain an individual based on an alert from the LPR system unless the deputy has reasonable suspicion or probable cause that such person is involved in criminal activity.

13. What are the Accuracy rates of Flock Safety's cameras?

Although a provider has not been selected, many have asked about Flock Safety since they were involved in early conversations with the Township. Accuracy Rates of Flock Safety's Falcon Camera captures an average of 97% of vehicle traffic (98% single lane and 97% two lane) and automatically detects vehicle characteristics (license plate, vehicle make, color and vehicle classification). A further breakdown of accuracy results are as follows:

- 93% license plate characters accuracy
- 95% vehicle color (daytime) accuracy
- 92% vehicle make accuracy
- 98% vehicle type accuracy