



CASE STUDY - Jackson Public Schools

Challenge

The problem of motorists driving by school buses when the buses' lights and stop arm are activated was a growing concern for Jackson Public Schools. They wanted to capture the license plates of offenders in order to discourage this type of behavior and improve the safety of students on and around their buses.

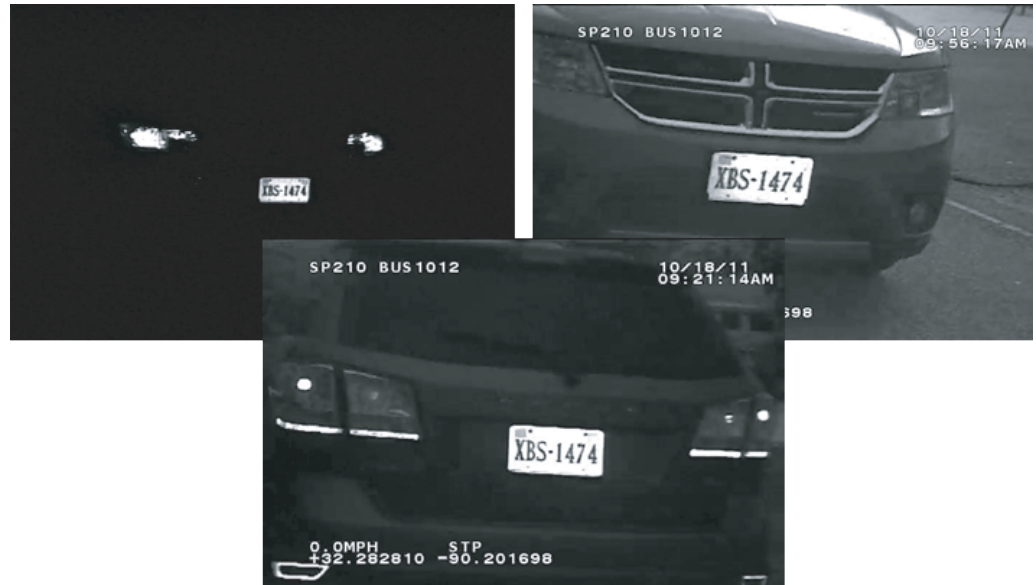


Mr. Williams, (left) Director of Transportation of Jackson Public Schools and Doug Fraser, (Right) VP of Product Development - Gatekeeper Systems.

Jackson Public Schools in Jackson, MS, is the second largest school district in Mississippi, serving more than 30,000 students. Transporting those students to their 60 different school sites is the job of the District's Transportation Department. With a mission to ensure all children are provided with safe transportation, Jackson Public Schools turned to imaging technologies from Gatekeeper Systems Inc.

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Actual Images from Jackson Public School, Jackson, MS

Solution

To improve school bus safety, Jackson Public Schools chose the Student Protector™ License Plate Reader from Gatekeeper Systems. The ruggedly designed Student Protector is installed on the outside of the bus near the stop arm and uses DIRECTLIGHT™ infrared technology to guarantee high quality images in any light, day or night. The camera's fast lens and shutter system eliminates motion blur even when the stop arm violator is travelling at speeds of up to 56 miles per hour.

Jackson Public School Student Protector configuration includes three cameras — one forward-facing, one rear-facing and one overview camera. Because Mississippi doesn't require a front license plate on vehicles, the forward- and rear-facing cameras take a close-up picture of the license plate whether it is on the front or back of the car, and the overview camera captures the whole vehicle and extended stop arm.

The cameras are connected to Gatekeeper's 304SD digital video recorders (DVRs), which capture reliable video. The 304SD is a solid state device that greatly reduces the chance that video will be corrupted due to an improper device shut down as compared to DVRs with spinning hard drives. At the office, Jackson Public School's managers remotely download, view and share video from the school bus using G4™ Incident Management Software.

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STUDENT PROTECTOR™ Multi Sensor License Plate Reading System

Result

Jackson Public Schools started using Gatekeeper's technologies one year ago when the technology was installed on one school bus. Richard Williams, Director of Transportation at Jackson Public Schools, believes that this technology on just one bus has had an impact on lowering the number of people driving by their school buses when the stop arm is activated because people know they are being watched. He plans to install the technology in all 300+ Jackson Public School buses. "

This technology has the potential to save lives," says Richard "It is the most advanced product of this type I have seen to date and is a highly technical state-of-the-art device. People are running our lights and stop arms while buses are loading every day. [This technology] is a safety feature for any district interested in protecting their children."

The imaging technology also takes the pressure off bus drivers who before had to gather all pertinent information, such as the license plate, description of the vehicle, lighting and road conditions, and the location and position of the bus each time there was a stop arm violation. This was a time consuming and error-prone task. Now, bus drivers simply tell the office that a violation occurred and managers can quickly access the video from the office and email it to authorities. Drivers are now able to focus on the job at hand - transporting children safely and efficiently to school.

At Jackson Public Schools, finding and emailing a stop arm incident is made easy due to G4 Incident Management Software's mini viewer capability. This allows managers to export and email video to people who don't have the same software on their computer. For example, they can email law enforcement officials a complete package of the stop arm incident, including the image of the license plate, image of the vehicle, GPS mapping information, and time/day stamps. Law enforcement officials in Jackson also like the new technology because they no longer have to allocate resources to monitor bus routes to catch offenders.

In Mississippi motorists pay \$750 for a first time stop arm violation, and \$1500 for second offences. With the revenue sharing potential made possible with this technology, Jackson Public Schools sees the cameras quickly paying for themselves.

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