



# **GATEKEEPER**

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Ministry of Transportation, P.E.I.  
*Case Study - Stop Arm Cameras*

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CASE STUDY

**The Challenge:** Drivers who speed by school buses when the stop arm is activated as students are loading or unloading from the bus was a growing problem and safety concern in P.E.I. According to the province's Transportation Minister Ron MacKinley, there were many complaints from parents and bus drivers about stop arm violations, especially on the province's two major highways.

Most of the children killed in bus related crashes are pedestrians, five to seven years old. Nearly one third of the deaths occur in the 10 -foot area surrounding the school bus because of passing motorists who ignore the flashing red warning lights and disregard a bus' deployed stop arm (NHTSA, 2006). P.E.I.'s Ministry of Transportation turned to technologies from Gatekeeper Systems to Combat this growing problem and protect their youngest citizens.

**The Solution:** After a three-year search for an affordable stop arm camera solution that would provide the image quality required to successfully prosecute violators, The Ministry selected the Student Protector from Gatekeeper Systems. The Student Protector is a license plate reader that is installed on the outside of school buses near the stop arm. Should a motorist drive by a school bus when the stop arm and flashing red lights are activated, the Student Protector will capture a clear, readable image of the offender's license plate. Using infrared technology, the system guarantees high quality images in any light,

day or night. And 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. The cameras are also vandal-proof and tested to military specifications to stand up to shock, vibration, and extreme weather conditions.

## **Benefits:**

- Discourage stop arm violations
- Improve student safety
- Create revenue sharing for
- Reduce false liability claims school districts



**The Result :** Ron Mackinley, Transportation Minister for P.E.I., has made it his mission to install the Student Protector System on every school bus in the province. Ron sees the reduction in stop arm violations and what that means to improving student safety as the biggest benefit of the system. "It's not how many people we can

nab," says Ron. "I think once we send a few thousand dollar fines out and people know, it's going to act like a photo -radar. The message will be out there that makes people think before they pass a school bus." Motorists breaking P.E.I.'s school bus law currently face up to a \$5,000 fine and eight demerit points.



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*Ron MacKinley, P.E.I. Transportation Minister*



Ron took his own test run by driving by a school bus while the stop arm was activated, and describes his experience: "I went by at about 60km an hour and it picked my license plate right clear off the back of the car. And then I came another way at about 78km an hour and it picked up my license plate again."

### **Student Protector Licence Plate Reader:**

Gatekeeper's Student Protector Licence Plate Reader can also be connected to Gatekeeper's G-Series digital video recorders, which are linked to G4 Incident Management Software. This Technology gives school districts the ability to view video remotely from the office. Recording begins when the bus warning lights are activated, continues while the stop arm is deployed and 15 seconds after the stop arm is retracted. This creates a single video file for each stop arm event, making it quick and easy to review. The systems also embeds important data into the video stream, including warning light activation, stop arm deployment, GPS coordinates and the bus' speed.

Prior to this technology, stop arm violations were under-reported in P.E.I. because it was difficult to prosecute offenders without a license plate number. With the Student Protector, Reliable license plate imaging with bus drivers simply report that a motorist passed the bus when the stop arm was activated and authorities remove the digital card from the camera to see the offender's license plate. Ron says the Student Protector gives school districts the evidence they need for authorities to make quick convictions. "We won't have to have the bus driver testify in court as to who was driving. We'll have it all on film."



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