

STOP ARM CAMERAS PROTECTING STUDENTS IN NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS



OVERVIEW

Make School Bus Stops Safe for Children

Noblesville Schools was searching for a way to keep their students safe while taking the school bus. They were finding that there was a lot of vehicles that were not stopping for buses when their stop-arm was engaged. There are multiple accidents every year where children are struck by vehicles that don't stop for a stop-arm, so the district wanted to deter future violations. They decided on getting a stop-arm camera system installed on their buses to act as an automatic witness to infractions. The system would need to capture images and data that they could use to prosecute violators. They tested 3 different systems and decided on Gatekeeper's SP25 Stop Arm Camera System due to the high quality and ease-of-use. They installed the system on the routes that were getting the most stop-arm infractions and have seen an enthusiastic response to the point that they want the system installed on all of their buses.

NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS

ENGAGE | INSPIRE | EMPOWER

CLIENT: Noblesville Schools
INDUSTRY: Public Schools
LOCATION: Noblesville, Indiana
SIZE: Over 10,500 students

GATKEEPER SOLUTION- STOP ARM CAMERA SYSTEM

- Highspeed License Plate Reading Technology
- IR technology to clearly capture tags day or night
- Multi-lane tag reading to lane 4
- Shared Revenue & Licensing Programs available



Noblesville High School, Indiana

THE CHALLENGE

Stop-Arm Violations

One of the places school children are the most vulnerable is crossing the street. It's the reason buses are equipped with a stop sign that extends out (stop-arm) at each stop. Unfortunately, it's all too common for drivers to drive past a stop-arm. Part of the reason why it happens as frequently as it does is because historically stop-arm violations have been hard to enforce. Brian Zachery, Director of Transportation for Noblesville Schools, said he was looking for a system to deter the numerous stop-arm violations in Noblesville. It was so rampant that they would get phone calls from parents regularly, "There was one street where we would have numerous violations almost every day," he said.

Automatic Witness

Stop-arm cameras are a relatively recent innovation that have helped deter stop-arm violations. Any violation is automatically captured on camera, with the images and video of the violation and license plate being submitted to local law enforcement. The package of evidence is reviewed by where it is either rejected or approved. If it is approved, a citation is issued and sent to the vehicle owner. The enforcement of stop-arm violations helps discourage future infractions and helps raise awareness.

THE APPROACH

Test Multiple Systems

Noblesville Schools tested 3 different stop-arm systems. They found that there was a noticeable difference in all 3 for quality and clarity. The most important aspect of a stop-arm camera is that it needs to capture high-quality images of the tags (license plates), as that is what leads to citations. The camera also needs to work in all conditions and has to be durable enough to withstand extreme temperatures.

"I find it super simple to use. It's easy to get the footage and it's easy to download it. The second we have the clips that we need, that's what we share with our local police department."

- Brian Zachery, Director of Transportation, Noblesville Schools

THE SOLUTION

Gatekeeper's Student Protector

The school district thoroughly tested all 3 systems to find the one the best one for their needs. Zachery said they decided on Gatekeeper's SP25 Stop Arm Camera System (The Student Protector). He said multiple factors went into their decision to pick The Student Protector. "This one seemed to be the easiest one to use. We were also getting better resolution on the cameras, especially on the pictures of the tags," he said. The Student Protector uses infrared technology to capture tag numbers from as far away as four lanes, and in the toughest of lighting and weather conditions. The superior quality of the system provides crystal clear images and videos to ensure tag readability for enforcement.

Ease to Use

An important feature for any stop-arm camera system is that it needs to be simple to use. The Student Protector Stop Arm Camera System can be easily mounted to the side of a bus. SP25 comes with two license plate reading cameras and up to 3 overview cameras for a total of up to 5 cameras. The system captures all the data of an infraction and seamlessly allows for a complete evidence package to be created complete with license plate imagery, GPS coordinates, vehicle speed, if warning lights were active, was stop arm deployed, date, time and driver identification. All that data is automatically included in each video and is easily extracted with Gatekeeper's G4 Incident Management Software.



Noblesville School Bus, Stop Arm installation

THE RESULTS

Enthusiastic Response

The Noblesville street that was getting multiple stop-arm violations every day was one of the first buses to get a stop-arm camera. Zachery said it made an immediate impact and that the response from parents was very positive. "I told them, it's not a tool that's going to stop everyone from doing it, but at least we're going to be able to do a better job catching the ones who do," he said. Since then, they've targeted the most problematic routes where there are numerous stop-arm infractions. Zachery said the local police department has been supportive of this initiative and since they started this program, they've had violations that have moved through to citations. From the response they've received and from the ease-of-use Zachery said that Noblesville Schools wants to install the Student Protector on all their buses.

GATEKEEPER

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