



SPECS Safety Cameras – A77 Strathclyde

Overview



The A77 in Strathclyde is a main trunk road linking the central belt of Scotland with Ayrshire and the west coast port of Stranraer. A variety of motorists (including commuters, tourists, local drivers and freight) use the A77, which consists of both single and dual carriageway. There are various speed limits along the route, with roundabouts and carriageway crossings. Due to the high number of accidents and injuries on this section of road, the A77 Safety Group was set up in June 2004 to support a wide range of initiatives to make the A77 a safer route to drive.

Customer

The A77 Safety Group consists of representatives from Transport Scotland, Amey, Strathclyde Police, South Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership and West Sound.

The SPECS system was launched in July 2005, over a 32 mile section of the A77.

www.a77safetygroup.com

Problem

Research from the A77 Safety Group identified that speeding was a major factor in many of the serious accidents that had occurred along the route. Over a ten year period 30 people have lost their lives in 24 crashes on the stretch between Fenwick and Stranraer. In addition, 243 people were seriously injured and 830 received slight injuries.

SCS Solution

SPECS cameras are part of a package of road improvements suggested to control traffic speed along the route. SPECS cameras have been installed on distinctive blue columns in the verge and central reserve, in conjunction with the 'Average Speed Camera' signs, approved by Transport Scotland in 2005.

Results

Across the entire 32 mile SPECS controlled zone, KSI casualty figures have fallen by 37%.



SCS

Speed Check Services
Safer, smoother traffic flows



Technology Overview

SPECS is an average speed enforcement system, using linked cameras that cover a length of road. The video cameras continuously capture images of vehicles as they pass through the field of view of the camera. Their number plates are read using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and the average speed of the vehicle is calculated between the two cameras, over a known baseline distance. If this exceeds the Police speed threshold, an offence record is created and violation images and data are logged.

Driver behaviour is noticeably better with average speed cameras as compliance is maintained throughout the whole speed restriction zone. Spot speed cameras often cause 'surfing' or sudden braking at the camera, followed by an increase in speed directly after the camera; this creates a wide distribution of speeds promoting flow breakdown and congestion. In contrast to this, average speed enforcement leads to a low standard deviation in speeds, creating a smooth, uniform flow.



Solution Benefits & Results



The SPECS system on the A77 has encouraged motorists to drive within the speed limits and as such compliance along the entire route has been excellent. The high level of public acceptance has resulted in very few tickets being issued by the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership (over the 3 year trial period there were only 1,027 tickets issued).

Recently released 3 year casualty statistics show that the SPECS system is helping to produce positive results as part of a package of measures. A 37% reduction has been seen in killed and seriously injured casualties over the three year period, and this figure is for the entire 32 mile stretch.

A77	Casualties			
Annual Average	Killed	Serious Injury	KSI Total	% Change
Before*	4.3	17.3	21.7	
After**	2.3	11.3	13.6	
* Annual average three years prior to installation ** Annual average three years post installation				-37%

For more information on the A77 Safety Group please visit: www.a77safetygroup.com

“These figures are very good. SPECS has clearly played a key part in reducing accident numbers and that is why the cameras will remain in place now that the pilot period is complete.”

Hugh McCafferty of Transport Scotland & chair of A77 Safety Group

SCS Overview

SCS was created in 1999 to bring the SPECS safety camera system to the road safety market. Today, SCS is the global leader in average speed enforcement solutions and one of the UK's foremost providers of intelligent transport solutions for the road traffic market sector.

Working in partnership with clients from a range of disciplines, we deliver turnkey projects and provide ongoing support and maintenance throughout the life of a contract.



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