



SPECS Speed Enforcement – South Yorkshire



Overview

The A616 Stocksbridge Bypass Trans-Pennine Route is a key feeder road to the M1. Opened in 1988, this rural road had a significant casualty history that the Highways Agency (HA) decided to address with a number of road safety measures. These included an 11km SPECS monitored Speed Control Zone along the length of the Stocksbridge Bypass.

Customer

The Highways Agency and South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership.

The partnership consists of South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils, the Highways Agency and Her Majesty's Courts Service.

<http://www.safetycamera.org/>

Problem

Following 25 fatal accidents between the opening of the A616 in 1988 and December 2002, the HA carried out a detailed study of the route. This revealed that speed was a major contributory factor to the severity of many accidents.

Half of all traffic at weekends was shown to exceed the 60mph speed limit, despite a high Police presence on the road.

SCS Solution

SPECS cameras have been in operation on the A616 since December 2003. SPECS utilises digital video cameras which continuously capture images of vehicles as they pass through the cameras' views. The number plates are read (ANPR) and the average speed of the vehicle is calculated between the two cameras. If this exceeds the Police threshold a violation file is created.

Results

Six fatalities occurred prior to installation. One alcohol-related fatality has occurred since installation.

Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) have dropped by 82% since SPECS was installed.

(comparing figures from the three years prior to installation with the five years post installation)



SCS

Speed Check Services
Safer, smoother traffic flows



Technology Overview



The SPECS camera pairs are clearly erected on unique bright yellow columns. In conjunction with rumble strips and speed limit markings on the road, the camera columns create very noticeable gateways to the ‘speed control zone’, with repeat columns acting as a powerful reminder to drivers that they are inside a speed monitored area.

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.

Over the 11km stretch, the cameras provide a route strategy approach, modifying driver behaviour over the entire distance.

Solution Benefits

The SPECS solution was installed to reduce the excessive speeds seen on the A616. The obvious deterrent effect of the highly overt camera columns has encouraged car drivers to travel at or below the 60 mph speed limit over the entire 11km stretch.

SPECS has created a ‘speed control zone’ allowing speeds to be controlled along the full length of the bypass, not just in the immediate vicinities of the cameras. This approach has resulted in more motorists complying with the speed limit, thus reducing potential for serious accidents along this stretch of road.



A616	Casualties			11km
Annual Average	Killed	Serious Injury	KSI Total	% Change
Before*	3	3.67	6.67	
After**	0.2	1	1.2	
* Annual average three years prior to installation ** Annual average five years post installation				-82%

“The SPECS system has proved very effective in bringing down the average speed of vehicles along the entire bypass”.

Gerry Scarfe, Project Manager - South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership

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.



SCS
Speed Check Services
Safer, smoother traffic flows