

traffic safety

SPECS SAFETY CAMERAS – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



OVERVIEW

Nottingham was the first Safety Camera Partnership to install a SPECS average speed enforcement system in 2000. Following the success of the initial trial, 48 pairs of SPECS cameras are now used in and around Nottingham, promoting speed compliance within 30 mph, 40 mph and 50 mph speed limits on both single and dual carriageway routes.

CUSTOMER

Nottinghamshire Safety Camera Partnership.
The partnership consists of Nottinghamshire Police, City of Nottingham Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Highways Agency and Nottingham Magistrates Court.

www.streettactics.co.uk

PROBLEM

Nuthall Road and Western Boulevard had the worst Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) figures in the county. Nottingham wanted to create 'speed control zones' rather than target individual accident black spots, so spot speed cameras were not considered appropriate for these key routes in to the city centre.

SCS SOLUTION

In July 2000, the first SPECS systems were installed at Nuthall Road (A610) and Western Boulevard (A6514). Nottinghamshire SCP was a DfT hypothecation pilot partner and gained considerable experience in the operation of the UK's first average speed enforcement system.

Each SPECS pair consists of two digital video cameras, linked by fibre optic cable to a remote enforcement cabinet. The video cameras continuously capture images of vehicles as they pass through the cameras' views. The number plates are read using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (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 (comparing figures from the three years prior to installation with the three years post installation)

- KSI figures have reduced by 52% on the A6514 and 56% on the A610
- PIC figures have reduced by 47% on the A6514 and 60% on the A610
- Fatalities on the A6514 have fallen from 6 to 1 and on the A610 from 3 to 0
- 85th % speeds have fallen from 44mph to 40mph on the A6514 and 39mph to 30mph on the A610



TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

There are now 48 pairs of SPECS digital cameras being used in Nottingham and the surrounding area. The cameras are mounted on prominent blue single arm and double arm columns. The double armed columns are used where there is a central reservation between two carriageways. These camera columns create highly visible gateways to the 'speed control zone', with repeat columns acting as a powerful reminder to drivers that they are inside a speed monitored area.

AWARD-WINNING SOLUTION

The Nottinghamshire Safety Camera Partnership was nominated along with SCS for the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award. The Technology Award was presented to the Partnership and SCS in 2002, in recognition of the improvement to road safety offered by the SPECS solution.

Speaking about the award, Alick Whitfield, BSI said:

"SCS has been honoured for its outstanding innovation which has improved compliance with speed limits and reduced casualties in the areas where SPECS has been installed."

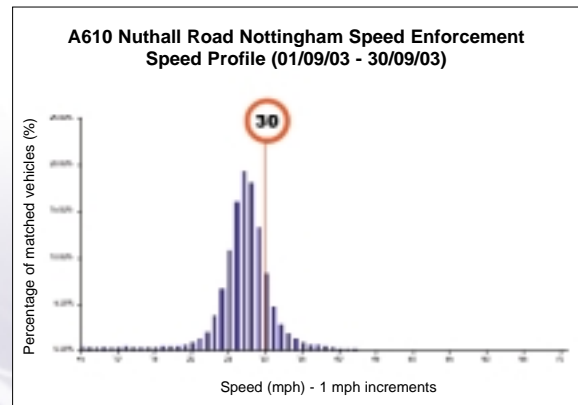
Site	KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured)				PIC (Personal Injury Collisions)			
	Before	After	3 Year	% change	Before	After	3 Year	% change
A6514 Ring Road	36	24	17.3	-52%	277	203	146.2	-47%
A610 Nuthall Road	15	9	6.6	-56%	82	45	33.1	-60%

SOLUTION BENEFITS

During the first three years following the SPECS installation on the A610, an average speed reduction of 9 mph was recorded (baseline average 33 mph, 2003 average 24 mph). In addition, there were 9 fatalities on the A610 and the A6514 in the three years prior to installation. Since then, there has only been a single, non speed-related fatality.

"Driving habits have been affected within the SPECS zones with a far greater level of compliance than expected. There is a more even traffic flow within SPECS Speed Controlled Zones, and it has almost removed the dash between major junctions"

(Nottinghamshire Safety Camera Partnership)



SCS OVERVIEW

Speed Check Services provides a range of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to the UK's road network. Three operating divisions target key market sectors:

- traffic operations:** implementing solutions to manage traffic flow on the road network
- traffic information:** using technology to keep the public informed about road conditions
- traffic safety:** protecting road users and enforcing traffic law

Drawing on considerable experience and a diverse technology toolkit, Speed Check Services can consult, design, install and maintain a broad range of ITS solutions.