



City Uses New Enforcement Technology to Reduce Fatal Crashes



About the Client

Situated just 10 miles west of the Pennsylvania state line, **Youngstown** is Ohio's ninth largest city. Located in the Greater Cleveland area, the City has heavily trafficked interstates that allow major travel between New York City and Chicago.

Program Overview

3

handheld LiDAR speed detection systems

24/7

operation and support maintenance

25%

reduction in total highway crashes
(Jul 2014- Jul 2015)

67%

reduction in total highway fatalities
(Jul 2014- Jul 2015)

Program includes complete Optotraffic back-office support services such as: *citation processing, preventative and corrective maintenance, payment processing, officer training, and expert witness support*

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The Challenge

Youngstown Police Department had a problem with speeding on their I-680 interstate and other expressways in their jurisdiction. With an average of 2-3 fatal crashes per year, they were tasked by the Chief of Police to get the traffic crash problem under control.

They first tried several of the traditional routes of speed reduction such as setting up speed areas with the State Patrol, using aircraft, and increased use of STEP monies for freeway enforcement. But after budget and manpower issues, they found that the speed problem was not being adequately addressed on traditional enforcement solutions alone.

After the state assembly passed Senate Bill 342, the city needed a company that would work with them to develop an enforcement solution within the strict requirements of the new law.

“Optotraffic has been with us every step of the way on the implementation of this program from training our personnel in how to use the whole system to personally coming out to help with our first hearings.”

- **Lieutenant William Ross**
City of Youngstown Police Department

The Solution

Optotraffic worked with the City to develop a unique speed enforcement program in March, 2015, with full compliance of SB 342. Because the bill requires a law enforcement officer to be present at the location of any traffic law photo-monitoring devices at all times during the operation of the device, a new type of automated enforcement solution was needed that would be officer controlled.

We provided the City with **DragonCam™**, a handheld LIDAR-based enforcement device, which allows the officer to capture and process speeding events in real-time, along with training and back office services to process the citations.

We established a call center and lockbox for payment processing, provided court docket preparation, expert witness testimony and collections for overdue Notice of Liability (NOL)'s.

Results

In one year, the City saw a major reduction in serious and fatal crashes along its freeway systems. The reduction was so noticeable that even residents commented on the improvement of the speeding problem, remarking how much better the interstate is to drive and travel on.

The City was able to drastically increase the number of violators caught speeding and thereby were able to correct the behavior to actually have a sustained impact on the speed problem. With the manpower reduced from the added DragonCam™ technology and processing being performed by Optotraffic, the City was able to step up enforcement on other issues, thus keeping the roads safer for its drivers.

DragonCam™ is manufactured by DragonEye Technology, LLC