SFMTA

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)

PSAB Meeting: September 10, 2021

Department's Mission

The Department's mission is to connect San Francisco through a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system.

Technology Description

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are high-speed camera systems that photograph license plates, convert the numbers and letters into machine-readable text, tag them with the time and location, and upload that data into a database for retrieval

Parking Garages and Lots: Stationary Cameras are installed at the entrance and exit of parking garages and lots.

Full list of Department owned garages can be found at: https://www.sfmta.com/garages-lots

Enforcement: Mobile cameras are installed on parking enforcement vehicles

(**Transit Vehicles**: Transit Only Lane Enforcement (TOLE) planned)

Authorized Use Cases

Department's use of the ALPR technology is limited to the following use cases:

1. Enforcing parking restrictions and laws
2. Link individual vehicles to their times of entry/exit into City-owned parking garages and lots to accurately calculate parking fees
3. Identify vehicles that are the subject of an active investigation by the SFPD
4. Analysis and reporting on parking and curb usage
5. Transit Only Lane Enforcement (TOLE)

Alternatives to Technology

Alternative would be a manual process instead of ALPR

Disadvantages of the manual process:

- **Parking fee calculation**: Greater chance of errors in calculating parking fees, especially when patrons lose their parking tickets within Department owned garages
- **Chalking by PCOs**: Minimizes physical chalking by Parking Control Officers (PCOs)
- **Reports & Analysis**: Without ALPR Technology there is less data regarding parking utilization, which informs planning and policy development

Data Lifecycle Steps

Parking Garages and Lots

- Collection
  - ALPR cameras read the license plate at enter and exit
- Processing & Use
  - Parking fees are calculated based on time in garage
  - Lost tickets can be replaced and processed using ALPR data
- Sharing
  - ALPR data is accessed only by authorized users
  - ALPR data is referred to if customer registers complaint or disputes parking charges
- Retention
  - ALPR Data: 60 days
    - To allow SFPD to request evidence while investigating break-ins
  - **Anonymized** data (digital images converted to numerical data): 2 years
    - For auditing purposes including parking taxes information for tax collector's office
    - Not used for utilization and planning
- Disposal
  - ALPR Data: After 60 days

Data Lifecycle Steps

Parking Enforcement

- Collection
  - ALPR cameras on enforcement vehicles read the license plate
- Processing & Use
  - PCO (Parking Control Officer) validates if violation occurred and write citation if applicable
  - For time restrictions parking enforcement vehicle needs to complete a second pass
- Sharing
  - ALPR data is accessed only by authorized users
  - ALPR data is referred to if customer registers complaint or disputes parking charges
- Retention
  - ALPR not associated with parking citations: 7 days
    - This is to provide mechanism to enforce 72-hour parking restrictions
  - ALPR associated with parking citations: 365 days
    - This is to support contested parking citations at Department Administrative Hearings
- Disposal
  - After 7 days
  - ALPR associated with citations: 1 year

Department's ALPR Vendors and Other Jurisdictions

- Current Vendors:
  - ALPR Vendor – Genetec
  - Citation processing – Conduent Technology
  - Parking Access and revenue Control System (PARCS) - Skidata

ALPR Technology also used at the following CA State Jurisdictions:

- City of Alameda
- City of Emeryville
- City of Oakland
- City of Sacramento
- City of San Mateo
- City of Berkeley
- City of Foster City
- City of Palo Alto
- City of San Jose
- City of Santa Clara

Questions

Team members available to Answer Questions:

Parking and Enforcement

- Shawn McCormick
- Kenya Wheeler
- Robert Aicardi

Information Technology (IT)

- Sean Cunningham

Program Management Office (PMO)

- Sohail Warsi
- Robert Miller