

Interstate 81

License Plate Study (ALPR)



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The I-81 project undertaken by The Traffic Group is one the first of its kind using a new technology - (ALPR) Automated License Plate Recognition technology. The primary reason for this project was to collect data for vehicles and their Environmental Impact on the Shenandoah Valley. This data was used for transportation improvements to Interstate 81 in the vicinity of the Tennessee State Line to the vicinity of the West Virginia State Line, comprising a corridor of approximately 325 miles in length. Over 46 cameras were positioned to collect more than 250,000 license plates in a 24 hour time frame.

Origin-destination data was needed to better understand I-81 vehicle travel patterns. A non-intrusive simultaneous survey of license plates at 4 strategic points along the I-81 corridor as well as 6 strategic points along I-64, I-66, I-581 and I-77 provides valuable information regarding travel patterns. Video recording equipment was used to photograph license plates in each travel lane in both directions and a computer program was used to match license plates in other locations over a 24-hour period. The observations were started at all locations at 3:00 AM on April 6, 2004 and continued until 3:00 AM on April 7, 2004. The number of matching plates between each of the detection points provided valuable information regarding length of trips and the origin and destination of trips along the Interstate highway network in the I-81 study area.