

Notice of Public Meetings

Surveillance Technology Public Comment

This is the first round of public comment on previously acquired surveillance technologies. For more information on these technologies or Surveillance Ordinance visit seattle.gov/privacy.

	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3	Meeting 4	Meeting 5
Depts. Presenting	Police Dept.	Transportation, Fire Dept.	Police Dept.	Police Dept.	Transportation, Fire Dept.
Date & Time	October 22, 2018 5-6:30 p.m.	October 25, 2018 5-6:30 p.m.	October 29, 2018 5-6:30 p.m.	October 30, 2018 5-6:30 p.m.	November 5, 2018 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Location	Columbia City Branch Library 4721 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118	American Legion Hall: West Seattle 3618 SW Alaska St. Seattle, WA 98126	Bertha Knight Landes Room 1 st Floor City Hall - 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104 (5th Ave door)	Green Lake Branch Library 7364 East Green Lake Dr. N, Seattle, WA 98115	Green Lake Branch Library 7364 East Green Lake Dr. N, Seattle, WA 98115

Technologies discussed at the meetings include:

Transportation (Meetings 2 & 5)	Fire Dept. (Meetings 2 & 5)	Police Dept. (Meetings 1, 3, & 4)
Traffic Cameras & License Plate Readers	Emergency Scene Cameras & Hazmat Cameras	Parking Enforcement Systems & Automated License Plate Readers

Here's how you can provide comments:

The open comment period for these technologies is **October 8 - November 5, 2018**. There are three ways to comment:

1. Attend the meeting. See the table above for locations and times.
2. Submit comment online at seattle.gov/privacy.
3. Send mail to Attn: Surveillance & Privacy Program, Seattle IT, PO Box 94709, Seattle, WA 98124.

Comments submitted will be included in the final Surveillance Impact Report submitted to City Council and available to the public. To comment after this period has closed, contact City Council staff at seattle.gov/Council.

Please note, this meeting will:

Be video recorded.

Ask for a sign-in record of attendees.

Collect public comments.

For meeting accommodations: Please let us know **two weeks in advance of the meeting date** if language translation, or other services are needed by emailing Surveillance@seattle.gov.



City of Seattle

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)(Patrol)

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

ALPR is a combination of software and hardware used for capturing and monitoring images of license plates. High definition infrared digital cameras are currently mounted on eight SPD Patrol cars to capture images of license plates. Those numbers are then validated by Officers and relayed to dispatch.

Why do we use the technology?

SPD uses ALPR in pursuit of maintaining public safety and enforcing applicable laws related to stolen vehicles, parking enforcement, and other active investigations.

Collection

All data collected by the ALPR systems (images, computer-interpreted license plate numbers, date, time, and GPS location) are stored on a secure SPD server. After 90 days all data collected by the ALPR systems is automatically deleted unless the data becomes part of an active investigation.



The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Surveillance](https://seattle.gov/surveillance).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Use

ALPR is used in active investigations or to recover lost or stolen vehicles. After collection, software deciphers the plate number and compares that number to a list of license plates associated with open, reported crimes. If a match is found the Patrol Officer must verify license plate accuracy and confirm with dispatch before any action may be taken. Each time a Patrol Officer logs into ALPR or contacts dispatch, an auditable record is created.

Protections

[SPD Policy 16.170](#) addresses how Officers may use ALPR. The policy limits the technology's use and restricts general users of ALPR from accessing the data except as it relates to a specific criminal investigation or parking enforcement action. Any activity by a user to access this information is auditable.

Parking Enforcement Systems (Including ALPR)

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

Parking Enforcement Systems includes ALPR cameras and software, Bootview software for determining if a car should be booted, Samsung devices to issue citations, and Gtechna software to print citations.



Why do we use the technology?

SPD facilitates the flow of traffic and assists in managing on-street parking assets related to parking violations in the City of Seattle. Additionally, SPD uses these technologies to enforce the Scofflaw, a City of Seattle Ordinance governing when a car should be booted.

Collection

Data collected from ALPR includes license plates, date and times, and GPS location information. The Bootview software allows Parking Enforcement Officers to view Seattle Municipal Court information about individuals with four or more unpaid parking tickets, including license plate number, vehicle description, past violation details, and current warnings or tickets issued.

Use

ALPR is used for parking enforcement to compare vehicles in timed parking zone for violations or to enforce Scofflaw. Bootview is used to identify vehicles in violation of Scofflaw. The system is managed and maintained by Seattle Municipal Court. Samsung handheld is used to access SDOT's Pay-by-Phone application, check parking meter data, and to issue citations. Gtechna software is used for printing citations.

Protections

Individuals may contest booting action or a parking violation through the normal course of municipal proceedings. Policies ensuring employees are background checked and access to the information generated by parking enforcement technologies is controlled, include: [SPD Policy 12.040](#), [SPD Policy 12.050](#), [SPD Policy 12.080](#), [SPD Policy 12.110](#), and [SPD Policy 12.111](#).

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Emergency Scene Cameras

Seattle Fire Department

What is the technology?

Emergency scene cameras are digital cameras used to take photos at incidents the fire department responds to. The photos are collected as part of SFD's documentation of an incident response.

Why do we use the technology?

Collecting photos at response incidents is a best practice guideline from the National Fire Protection. These photos help provide medical professionals information during emergency responses, which can reduce potential for loss of life for patients. Photos of incident scenes also provide valuable information for SFD's Fire Investigation Unit.

Collection

After assessing a scene, first responders determine if emergency scene photos are of use for medical or other incident review purposes.



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Use

Photos taken by emergency scene cameras may be shared with the Medic One doctor in order to provide appropriate patient care. Photos taken by the Safety Chiefs and the Fire Investigation Unit are used in open investigations related to collisions and fires.

Protections

SFD adheres to internal Policies and Washington laws governing the use, retention, and disclosure of photos. Access controls also exist around the use of emergency scene cameras, and is limited to Fire Investigators, Battalion Chiefs in Safety Units, and Medic One paramedic units.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Camera

Seattle Fire Department

What is the technology?

Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team utilizes a tablet camera to livestream video via the FaceTime application, to a monitor located on the HazMat unit. The team uses a password protected MiFi connection for secure streaming from the tablet to the monitor.

Why do we use the technology?

HazMat cameras allow first responders to detect and identify potentially hazardous materials or contaminants, while maintaining a safe distance from potential exposure. It also provides an Incident Commander with the real-time information required to make quick decisions.

Collection

In the event of a hazardous materials incident, Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team uses the HazMat tablet camera to livestream video to the HazMat unit. Still images may also be captured by screen shot on the tablet. The Incident Commander will determine if the technology use is necessary during an incident response.



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Use

The video and images captured via the HazMat tablet camera are used for surveying the incident scene and identifying potentially hazardous materials. The still images may be used for post-incident review or shared with law enforcement if reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists.

Protections

The tablets are password protected and can only be accessed by the HazMat team. Tablets use encryption to ensure data over the MiFi connection is secure. The FaceTime application also uses end-to-end encryption for the entire conversation stream. SFD stores still images on a secured drive, only accessibly to the HazMat team.

LICENSE PLATE READERS (LPR)

What is the technology?

LPR is a combination of hardware and software used for capturing and monitoring images of license plates. High definition cameras are posted at various intersections throughout the City to assist SDOT traffic engineers in decreasing travel times across the City.

Why do we use the technology?

Measuring travel time is a key metric for understanding and mitigating issues related to urban traffic congestion. LPR allows SDOT to quickly determine travel times for system engineering, traffic planning, and public distribution purposes.

Collection

LPR captures images of license plates as they move into view. The images are put through software that reports the license plate number to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) with a time stamp, plate number, LPR camera channel, and station (intersection) identifier. WSDOT processes the travel time between intersections and sends the information back to SDOT.

Use

The information collected from license plate readers is used to calculate average travel time and delays. This data allows traffic engineers to improve traffic signal timing and provide information to travelers about expected delays. Travel time data may be displayed on electronic road signs, on major streets.



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Protections

SDOT's LPR systems are strictly built to monitor traffic flow and travel time. License plate numbers are immediately deleted upon completion of the travel time calculation. The data SDOT receives from WSDOT is aggregated and accessed only by SDOT staff. At no point does SDOT receive individual license plate numbers.



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

TRAFFIC CAMERAS

What is the technology?

Traffic cameras are remotely controllable video cameras dedicated to observing vehicle road traffic. Installed on traffic poles along major roads, the cameras provide live video in real time to SDOT's Transit Operations Center.

Why do we use the technology?

Traffic cameras are used to monitor congestion, incidents, closures, and other traffic issues. This visibility gives SDOT's engineers the necessary information to detect and respond quickly to traffic issues. These improvements lead to decreased travel delays and improved public health and safety.

Collection

Traffic cameras observe vehicle traffic in real time. The live video is sent to SDOT's Transportation Operations Center for real-time monitoring. Cameras are remotely controlled, allowing operators to maneuver cameras to best understand traffic conditions.

Use

The live feed from traffic cameras is linked to the Traveler Information Map on SDOT's website, allowing commuters to view current, live traffic conditions. Use of traffic cameras allows SDOT's Transit Operations Center staff to respond to traffic incidents throughout Seattle as part of the City's emergency response plan.



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Protections

SDOT Camera Control Protocol Guidelines governs camera use, including provisions for individual privacy protection. Traffic camera video is archived in very specific cases for use solely by the Transit Operations Center. Archived footage is not shared with any other City department or entity and is permanently deleted within ten days.



Seattle
Department of
Transportation