OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY -DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM CAMERA GRANT PROJECT REPORT

Michael J. Hanson Director - Office of Traffic Safety Rahya Geisler School Bus Camera Grant Coordinator



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Acknowledgements

The School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant (SBSC) project was a team effort of several individuals and State departments. The collaborative efforts of two divisions of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) - the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and Minnesota State Patrol made it possible to execute this project over the last two years. Special thanks go to: Kristen Oster, Karen Aldridge, Lt. Brian Reu, Sgt. Mike Krukowski, Sgt. Kelly Johnson and Sgt. Chad Dauffenbach. There are many other safety champions that made this project a great success in Minnesota.

This report is prepared and respectfully submitted by: Rahya Geisler - School Bus Camera Grant Coordinator



Overview - SBSC grant project

OTS provided funding to school districts, nonpublic schools, charter schools, and companies that provide school bus services to install and operate school bus stopsignal arm camera systems. This grant will serve school age children who ride on school buses throughout the state of Minnesota by bringing attention to the legal requirement that all drivers must stop for an extended school bus stop arm.

The purpose of this grant is to help keep school children safe in our communities and to hold drivers accountable for their dangerous driving behaviors. The goal is to reduce the number of stop arm violations around the state to keep our children safe. The outcomes we are seeing already: the number of violations are on the RISE. The outcomes we hope to see: Drivers changing dangerous behaviors and choices, with violations decreasing significantly in the coming years.

In a 2021 special session, the Minnesota state legislators allocated \$14,796,000 to be awarded in Fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The grant project was awarded in six different phases with priority given to applicants that proposed to install cameras on regular route type A, B, C and D buses; newer buses; and buses not currently equipped with a stop arm or forward facing camera system.

Eligible applicants needed to be one of the following: School districts, Nonpublic Schools, Charter schools, and Companies that provide school bus services in Minnesota. Grant applicants were required to collaborate with local law enforcement for successful implementation of this project. Another component to the application was a community outreach plan. The selection criteria was based off of the following five categories: reporting of past violations, the geographic diversity, public outreach plan, law enforcement support letters and history of fiscal management with grants.

Overview - SBSC grant project

A child should never have to fear getting on the school bus in the morning or getting off the bus after a long day at school. These cameras allow bus drivers to focus on driving and the children's safety.

Our goal is to change drivers behaviors when encountering a school bus. Stop arm cameras allow law enforcement to hold those violators accountable for their bad decisions. We also want to educate communities and keep our school aged children safe.

Amy Howe, a Minnesota mom, lived a parent's worst nightmare one afternoon in April 2022 when her son, Hudson, was struck by a motorcycle after getting off the bus.

"I asked Hudson what he wanted people to learn from this accident. We talk a lot in our family about how accidents happen. People make mistakes, as that is part of being human. We talk about how the motorcycle driver who hit him made a really bad choice, he never intended to hurt Hudson. What Hudson wanted to share is that no one wants an accident like this to happen. No one wants to deal with the pain and trauma that comes from an accident like this. What he said to me was, "If that guy would have followed the law, and waited the few seconds longer, none of this would have happened. It could have been avoided so easily" See a news clip at: https://www.fox9.com/video/1205083

Howe spoke at the May 2023 Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) workshop, saying: "I think Hudson's sentiments echo what a lot of you have been saying today. We all want people to be more aware, to slow down, to know the laws and to look out for and protect our children. I regularly drive down the street where Hudson's accident took place. Just this week I saw a man drive right through a school bus stop arm. There is work to do on this issue. I am so grateful for the hard work and energy you all put towards this."

Introduction - SBSC grant project

The SBSC grant project was born out of a Special Session by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2021. Lawmakers approved \$14,796,000 for OTS to administer this project. Funding began in August of 2021; this included the hiring of the grant manager to execute the project. The first phase of the grant was open October 2021 for applications. The grant manager was hired and started mid-December 2021. The grant process was lengthy and required a lot of moving parts in different departments and with other team members working on the project.

The requirements in the grant application were:

- Sign up to be a user in the E-grants system, used to administer grants in the OTS.
- Provide supplier number to receive payment from the state if grant is approved.
- Provide financial statements from previous tax year and complete a risk assessment form.
- Provide historical data on prior school bus violations.
- Give a description of their school district or transportation company, why they
 wish to install the cameras, and an overview of their public awareness and
 campaign ideas to get the word out about the cameras being installed on their
 busses.
- Construct a project work plan and budget; a detailed list of the bus fleet with information on type, model, and year of buses was required. Information on bus route types and if the buses had other cameras installed prior was also required in the workplan.
- Provide a quote for the stop arm cameras hardware, software, and installation cost.
- Provide letters of support from local law enforcement officials.

Introduction - SBSC grant project

The selection criteria and weight for the review committee were as follows: Each applicant was reviewed on a 10-point scale.

Demonstrated need based on past violations -

- 0 = No evidence of past problems on proposed bus routes
- 1 = Some evidence of past problems on proposed bus routes
- 2 = Robust evidence of past problems on proposed bus routes

Geographic diversity of applicant -

- 0 = Similar geographic range as other applications
- 1 = Somewhat similar geographic range as other applications
- 2 = Unique geographic range compared to other applications

Quality of public outreach and education program -

- 0 = Limited scope of public awareness plan
- 1 = Moderately well-defined public awareness plan
- 2 = Very well-defined and comprehensive public awareness plan

Level of commitment from local law enforcement partners -

- 0 = Minimal level of commitment from law enforcement
- 1 = Average level of commitment from law enforcement
- 2 = Strong level of commitment from law enforcement

Financial management capacity -

- 0 = Little evidence of ability to manage the financial elements of this grant
- 1 = Some evidence of ability to manage the financial elements of this grant
- 2 = Strong evidence of ability to manage the financial elements of this grant

Introduction - SBSC grant project

The success of this grant project was in large part due to the marketing of opportunities when a new grant phase was opened and grants were awarded. Bringing the grant project to the entire state was very important to the team. Please see the list below of the examples of these efforts.

1. Information Sharing opportunities:

- News releases, media relations, social media and blogs DPS
- Minnesota Department of Education email list serve
- Emailed list of bus supervisors schools and companies
- Share grant info with TZD coordinators and Law Enforcement Liaisons
- Outreach to our Tribal Nations
- 2. Attending and Presenting opportunities:
 - Present at Minnesota School Bus Officials Association conferences
 - Present at Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation conferences
 - Present at TZD State Conference
 - Present at TZD Regional Workshops
 - Roundtable meetings across the state
 - Hennepin Traffic Advisory Group
 - Rochester School District Media release interview

These were some of the opportunities to connect with communities on a common goal: the safety of our school children."

This is not an exhaustive list, but it gives an indication of the many activities and opportunities that were taken to bring this opportunity statewide.

The supply of cameras was a concern when the grant project first started. Once the phases were able to start purchasing the hardware there wasn't an issue. The hurdle that was encountered by many was the lack of installers and lag time to get their cameras installed. Companies were not prepared for the volume of orders that they were handling. The weather impeded a lot of installs during the winter months. This greatly affected the grantee's ability to report violations with video footage.

The funding for the SBSC grant project was rolled out in six different phases. The charts below show the different phases with number of grantees, amount awarded and number of buses that were equipped with stop arm cameras. The goal was to outfit half of the student bus fleet in Minnesota with this funding. The 6,998 buses represents about 59 percent of the eligible bus fleet in Minnesota. OTS exceeded its goal.

Phase	# Grantees	\$\$ Approved	# Buses
1	31	\$3,522,895.55	1,751
2	41	\$3,705,563.82	2,068
3	21	\$2,949,272.96	1,458
4	19	\$1,389,414.75	551
5	16	\$1,428,661.82	600
6	27	\$1,187,443.77	570
Totals:	155	\$14,183,252.67	6,998



Number of Grantees, by Phase



 6
 \$1,187,443.77

 5
 \$1,428,661.82

 4
 \$1,389,414.75

 3
 \$2,949,272.96

 2
 \$3,705,563.82

 1
 \$3,522,895.55

 \$
 \$500,000
 \$1,500,000
 \$2,000,000
 \$3,000,000
 \$3,500,000
 \$4,000,000

Amount Approved, by Phase



Phase 1 had 31 grantees approved for a total of \$3,522,895.55 in funding. The grant applications were open Nov. 9, 2021, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by Dec. 3rd, 2021. Review of Phase 1 grant applications took place December 2021 through January 2022.The DPS news release was sent out Feb. 14, 2022, and grants were awarded March 1, 2022.

Phase 1 Grantee Information						
				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Age
Aitkin Public Schools	Aitkin	\$	6,050.00	New/Addt'l	22	2011+
Becker Public Schools	Sherburne	\$	16,500.00	New	34	2000+
Benson Public Schools	Swift	\$	9,990.00	New	6	2008
Bloomington Public Schools	Hennepin	\$	154,194.00	New	60	2005
Cloquet Transit Company	Carlton	\$	16,400.00	New	22	2012
Faribault Transportation Services, Inc.	Rice	\$	77,392.95	New/Addt'l	29	2007
Fillmore Central Schools	Fillmore	\$	30,486.54	New	14	2010
Forest Lake Area Schools	Washington/Anoka/Chisago	\$	270,000.00	New	109	2016
Greenway Public Schools	Itasca	\$	49,300.00	New	17	2010
Grisim School Bus, Inc.	Olmsted	\$	29,325.00	Addt'l	17	2009
Held Bus Service	Goodhue, Rice, Dodge,	\$	35,424.00	New	18	2003
	Steele					
Hoglund Transportation	Wright	\$	20,384.00	New	23	2011
Kasson Mantorville School	Dodge/ Mower/ Olmsted	\$	9,784.00	New/Addt'l	14	2005
M & M Bus Service	Wright	\$	49,383.31	New	41	2005
McGregor Independent School Dist.	Aitkin	\$	28,680.00	Addt'l	12	2010
Minnesota Coaches, Inc.	Dakota/ Ramsey/ Hennepin/	\$	1,273,136.00	New/Addt'l	557	2008
	Houston/ St. Louis					
New Prague Area Schools	Scott/LeSueur/Rice	\$	119,836.00	New	41	2005
New Ulm Bus Lines	Brown/ Nicollet	\$	7,350.00	New	3	2007
Ottertail Coaches, Inc.	Otter Tail	\$	78,312.77	New/Addt'l	30	2008
Palmer Bus Financial Management, Inc.	25 MN School districts	\$	902,491.70	Addt'l	396	2001
Rehbein Transit Company	Anoka	\$	46,465.59	New/Addt'l	54	2008
Rock Ridge Public Schools	St. Louis	\$	17,770.00	New	31	1998
Rustad School Bus, Inc.	Swift, Kandiyohi	\$	3,202.20	New	6	2011
Schmitty & Sons	Dakota/ Scott	\$	58,902.80	New	40	2018
South Washington County Schools	Washington	\$	94,264.00	Addt'l	38	2019
Spanier Bus Service Inc.	Stearns	\$	50,775.00	New	47	2008
Strack's Bus Service, Inc.	Morrison	\$	8,203.44	New	14	2003
Triton ISD 2125	Dodge/ Goodhue/ Steele	\$	9,654.66	New	19	2000
Underwood School District 550	Otter Tail	\$	5,500.00	Addt'l	5	2012
Vision of Big Lake Inc.	Sherburne	\$	16,744.09	New	23	2007
Willow River Area School ISD 577	Pine, Aitkin	\$	26,993.50	New	9	2012

Phase 2 had 41 grantees approved for a total of \$3,705,563.82 in funding. The grant applications were open Jan. 31, 2022, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by March 15, 2022. Review of Phase 2 grant applications took place April and May 2022. The DPS news release was sent out July 12, 2022, and grants were awarded Nov. 1, 2022.

Phase 2 Grantee Information				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Ag
American Student Transportation of Mo		\$	241,595.20	New	163	200
Bemidji Bus Line	Beltrami, Hubbard	\$	15,834.81	Addt'l	8	200
Benjamin Bus Incorporated	Rice, Dakota, Scott	\$	160,866.25	Addt'l	81	200
Bernard Bus Service	Olmsted, Fillmore	\$	82,095.30	New	35	200
Byron Schools	Omsted	\$	38,430.33	New	13	200
Cambridge-Isanti Schools	Isanti	\$	97,510.00	Addt'l	56	201
Dassel Cokato Public School	Meeker, Wright	\$	55,707.00	Addt'l	31	200
Dawson-Boyd Public School	Lac Qui Parle, Yellow	\$	20,926.67	New	7	201
	Medicine					
Detroit Lakes Public Schools	Becker and Ottertail	\$	17,302.94	Addt'l	6	200
Don's Bus Service	Wright	\$	119,813.00	Addt'l	40	200
East Range Academy of Tech	St. Louis	\$	5,122.30	Addt'l	2	201
Eden Prairie Schools	Hennepin	\$	53,017.60	Addt'l	104	200
Edina Public Schools	Hennepin	\$	104,700.00	Addt'l	60	200
-irst Group	Anoka, Hennepin, Mille Lacs	\$	905,568.13	Addt'l	389	201
Four Point 0	Carlton, Chisago, St. Louis,	Ś	105,316.51	Addt'l	64	200
	Pine, McLeod, Wright,		,			
	Nicollet, Sibley, Redwood,					
	Lyon, Carver					
Goodridge School	Pennington, Marshall	\$	19,761.00	New	7	200
Hendricks Bus Service, Inc	Stearns, Meeker, Wright	\$	47,940.58	New	16	20
Ienning Public Schools	Ottertail	\$	22,950.00	Addt'l	10	20
Hinckley Finlayson ISD 2165	Pine, Aitkin, Kanabec	\$	9,810.00	Addt'l	11	20
Houston Public Schools	Houston	\$	14,912.00	New	8	200
nd School dist 2137	Fillmore, Mower, Omsted	\$	13,860.00	New	7	200
SD #31 - Bemidji Area Schools	Beltrami, Hubbard	\$	161,949.21	Addt'l	88	199
SD # 542 - Battle Lake	Ottertail	\$	18,300.00	New	10	200
SD 199 Inver Grove Heights Schools	Dakota	\$	14,192.50	Addt'l	23	200
SD 595 - East Grand Forks	Polk, Marshal	\$	17,712.00	New	8	20:
Koch School Bus Service, Inc.	Carver	\$	219,417.64	Addt'l	104	200
ake Country Transportation	Hennepin	\$	45,114.00	Addt'l	105	20:
.ittlefork-Big Falls ISD 362	Koochiching	\$	38,428.00	New	13	20:
Marshall County Central Schools	Marshall	\$	2,880.00	Addt'l	4	20:
Velrose Bus Service	Todd, Morrison	Ş	17,225.00	New	7	20:
Metropolitan Transportation Network	Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey,	\$	516,600.00	Addt'l	300	20
	Washington	Ŷ	510,000.00	nuari	500	20
New Milennium Academy	Hennepin, Anoka	\$	12,851.46	New	8	20
Northstar Bus Lines	Hennepin, Anoka	\$	238,138.76	Addt'l	132	20
Pierz Public Schools	Morrison	ś	29,432.85	Addt'l	132	20
Prairie Seeds Academy	Hennepin, Wright, Anoka,	\$	25,436.45	New	13	20
Taine Seeus Academy	Ramsey	Ų	23,430.43	INCOV	15	20.
Red Lake ISD 38	Beltrami	\$	3,620.00	Addt'l	12	20
Red Rock Central Schools	Redwood, Cottonwood,	\$	5,355.00	Addt'l	9	20
	Brown	Ş	5,555.00	Auut I	9	20
Reichert Enterprises, Inc.	Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison	\$	104,700.00	Addt'l	60	20
St. Cloud District 742	Stearns	\$	28,391.50	Addt'l	21	20
Sue's Bus Service	Mille Lacs	\$	34,315.85	New	12	20
Win-E-Mac Public Schools	Polk	ş Ş	18,463.98	Addt'l	8	20

Phase 3 had 21 grantees approved for a total of \$2,949,272.96 in funding. The grant applications were open May 2, 2022, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by June 15, 2022. Review of Phase 3 grant applications took place July and August 2022. The DPS news release was sent out Sept. 26, 2022, and grants were awarded Jan. 13, 2023.

Phase 3 Grantee Information						
				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Age
Becker Public School	Sherburne	\$	59,559.88	Addt'l	27	2000
Blue Earth Area School District	Faribault, Martin, Blue Earth	\$	53,983.80	New/Addt'l	18	2003
Cedar Mountain Bus Service, Inc.	Brown, Nicollet	\$	34,827.00	Addt'l	23	2001
Eastern Carver County Schools	Carver	\$	246,023.30	New	113	2013
4 Point 0 School Services	Lyon, Redwood, Nicollet,	\$	366,588.73	New/Addt'l	251	2002
	Sibley, Pine, Carlton,					
	Hennepin, Wright, McLeod,					
	Carver, Chisago, Meeker,					
	Stearns					
Hermantown Community Schools	St. Louis	\$	53,062.60	New	20	2007
Independent School District 139	Chisago, Pine	\$	22,998.84	New	11	2003
Independent School District 196	Dakota	\$	290,088.75	New	105	2003
International Falls School District, ISD 36	5 Koochiching	\$	29,120.00	New	14	2007
Kottke's Bus Service, Inc.	Anoka, Hennepin	\$	344,840.22	New	163	2007
Lake of the Woods School District	Lake of the Woods	\$	47,200.00	New	16	2004
Lake Park Audubon Public Schools	Becker	\$	15,304.00	New	8	2014
Lake Superior School District 381	Lake	\$	12,705.00	New	15	2007
New Ulm Bus Lines	Brown, Nicollet	\$	76,916.00	New	41	2003
New York Mills Public School ISD 553	Ottertail	\$	41,097.00	New	14	2009
Ogilvie School	Kanabec	\$	13,014.54	New	7	2011
Schmitty & Sons	Scott, Dakota, Washington	\$	587,982.00	Addt'l	318	2012
Special School District No. 1	Hennepin	\$	296,672.00	New	158	2011
St. Louis Park Transportation	Hennepin	\$	171,785.00	Addt'l	60	2012
Tyler Bus Service, Inc	Pipestone, Lyon, Murray	\$	62,615.00	New	35	2003
White Bear Lake Area Schools	Ramsey, Washington	\$	122,889.30	New	41	2009

Phase 4 had 19 grantees approved for a total of \$1,389,414.75 in funding. The grant applications were open Aug. 4th, 2022, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by Sept. 15, 2022. Review of Phase 4 grant applications took place October and November 2022. The DPS news release was sent out Feb. 8, 2023, and grants were awarded March 3, 2023.

	Phase 4 Grantee Inform	natio	on			
				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Age
Aitkin Public Schools	Aitkin, Crow Wing	\$	41,051.50	Addt'l	14	2011
Albert Lea Bus Company	Freeborn	\$	140,939.33	New	47	2009
Anderson Bus of Frazee Inc	Becker, Ottertail	\$	50,572.01	Addt'l	17	2007
Barnum Public Schools	Carlton	\$	32,612.25	New	11	2008
Breck School	Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, Wright	\$	74,910.00	New	33	2015
Cook County Schools ISD 166	Cook	\$	28,112.00	New/Addt'l	14	2014
Duluth Ind School District 709	St. Louis	\$	69,107.22	Addt'l	30	2005
Fornshell Bus Service	Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison	\$	63,928.88	Addt'l	22	2001
4 Point 0 School Services, Inc	Scott, Sibley	\$	39,436.36	New	15	2003
Lyle Public School	Mower	\$	17,935.00	Addt'l	6	2004
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Mille Lacs, Pine, Crow Wing, Kanabec	\$	41,658.40	New	14	2011
North Star Bus Lines	Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey	\$	84,080.08	New	45	2015
Palmer Bus Financial Management, Inc.	Grant, Pope, Le Sueur, Chippewa, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Kandiyohi, Nobles, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Waseca, Cottonwood, Goodhue	\$	306,453.72	Addt'l	103	2003
Stephen-Argyle Central	Marshall	\$	25,926.50	New	10	2003
Trobec's Bus Service	Stearns	\$	200,988.03	New	67	2001
Underwood School Dist	Ottertail	\$	38,952.42	Addt'l	13	2001
Vision Transportation of Elk River	Sherburne	\$	55,471.53	New	49	2007
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Sc	l Le Sueur, Rice, Waseca, Brown	\$	14,975.52	New	8	2011
Yaeger Bus Service Inc.	Blue Earth	\$	62,304.00	New/Addt'l	33	2001

Phase 5 had 16 grantees approved for a total of \$1,428,661.82 in funding. The grant applications were open Oct. 11, 2022, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by Nov. 22, 2022. Review of Phase 5 grant applications took place January 2023. The DPS new release was sent out March 23, 2023, and grants were awarded April 3, 2023.

Phase 5 Grantee Information						
				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Age
4 Point 0 School Services, Inc.	Redwood, Carver, Carlton,	\$	137,749.28	New/Addt'l	64	2002
	McLeod, Lincoln, Lyon,					
	Meeker					
Bemidji Bus Line	Beltrami, Hubbard	\$	7,842.39	Addt'l	3	2003
Bud's Bus Service	Nobles	\$	63,140.00	Addt'l	26	2014
Cambridge-Isanti Schools	Isanti, Chisago	\$	43,138.87	Addt'l	56	2013
Cleveland Public Schools	Le Sueur, Nicollet, Blue Earth	\$	32,321.91	New	11	2006
First Student	Winona, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Goodhue	\$	684,318.35	New	253	2015
Hancock Public School	Stevens, Pope, Swift	\$	20,363.76	New	7	2003
ISD #31 - Bemidji Area Schools	Beltrami, Hubbard	\$	67,096.44	Addt'l	26	2005
Labraaten Bus Company INC	McLeod	\$	23,963.95	Addt'l	8	2008
Mora Public Schools	Kanabec	\$	22,053.41	Addt'l	19	2007
Northland Community Schools	Cass	\$	29,985.00	Addt'l	10	2014
Nor-Tran Inc	Itasca	\$	32,943.23	Addt'l	16	2008
Pine Island Independent School District	2 Goodhue, Olmsted, Dodge	\$	50,726.23	New/Addt'l	17	2009
Rudenick Bus Services LLC.	Nicollet	\$	2,699.00	New	1	2004
South Washington County Schools	Washington	\$	180,345.00	Addt'l	73	2007
Staples-Motley School ISD2170	Todd, Wadena, Cass, Morrison	\$	29,975.00	Addt'l	10	2009

Phase 6 had 27 grantees approved for a total of \$1,187,443.77 in funding. The grant applications were open Dec. 19, 2022, with a deadline to get the grant applications in by Jan. 31, 2023. Review of Phase 6 grant applications took place February and March 2023.The DPS Media new was sent out May 4, 2023, and grants were awarded May 19, 2023.

Phase 6 Grantee Information						
				Cameras		
School - Company	County		\$\$ Approved	Used	# Buses	Bus Age
Albany ISD 0745	Stearns	\$	56,715.00	Addt'l	19	2001
Cedar Mountain Bus Service, Inc	Brown, Nicolet	\$	4,966.00	New	2	2008
Clearbrook-Gonvick ISD 2311	Clearwater	\$	5,560.35	New	3	2019
Cloquet Transit CO INC	Carlton	\$	46,487.72	Addt'l	27	2011
Crosby-Ironton Transportation, Inc.	Crow Wing	\$	27,145.55	Addt'l	10	2002
Ely Public School ISD 696	St. Louis	\$	17,884.15	New	7	2008
Grisim School Bus, Inc	Olmsted	\$	3,535.25	Addt'l	6	2009
Hayfield Bus Company	Dodge, Mower, Olmsted	\$	20,998.13	New	7	2012
Hmong American Parternship	Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, and Washington	\$	113,155.00	Addt'l	53	2009
ISD 252	Goodhue	\$	18,289.40	New	17	2007
ISD 593	Polk	\$	38,423.26	New/Addt'l	18	2004
Lake Country Transportation	Hennepin, Anoka	\$	156,583.00	Addt'l	105	2018
Lake Superior School District 381	Lake	\$	23,999.44	New	8	2007
Moorhead Area Public Schools	Clay	\$	116,903.12	Addt'l	63	2012
Morris Public Schools	Stevens, Pope, Grant, Swift	\$	51,653.24	New	18	2001
New Ulm Bus Lines	Brown, Nicolet	\$	16,001.79	New	6	2006
Independent School District 507	Nicolett	\$	2,989.62	New	1	2012
Olander Bus Service Inc.	Becker	\$	72,517.76	New	26	2005
Osakis Public School	Douglas, Todd, Pope	\$	33,945.00	New	15	2000
Otto Bus Company	Nicolett	\$	2,989.62	New	1	2020
Rehbein Transit Company	Anoka	\$	179,989.43	Addt'l	61	2008
Reichert Enterprises, Inc.	Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison	\$	44,269.41	New	20	2006
Triton ISD 2125	Dodge, Goodhue, Steele	\$	11,154.51	New/Addt'l	13	2000
Tyler Bus Service, Inc.	Pipestone, Lyon, Murray	\$	16,988.56	New	6	2007
Vision of Buffalo Inc.	Wright, Hennepin	\$	47,320.54	New/Addt'l	29	2010
Warroad Independ School District 690	Roseau	\$	35,253.00	New	15	2007
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public So	t Le Seuer, Rice	\$	21,725.92	New/Addt'l	14	2007

The main bus models that were represented in the grant applications were GMC, Starcraft Bus, Lion Electric Company, Mid Bus Corp, Dodge, Blue Bird Corporation IC Bus, Thomas Built Buses, Collins Bus Corp, Chevrolet and Ford.

The reporting requirement for the grant included the essential collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and the Minnesota State Patrol. Grantees submitted quarterly reports documenting violations and how many of the violations became citations.

Across the state, a common hurdle related to the inconsistency of how agencies could receive information and videos of the violations. Another impediment was the bus company's ability to collect details of the citations due to a lack of information sharing between law enforcement agencies and the courts.

We have a great opportunity to streamline violation reporting, video sharing, and tracking citations and charges. One challenge is staffing for Minnesota's Law Enforcement agencies. This gap in patrol officers leads to less administrative time for processing violations. Law enforcement has also reported significant discrepancies and lack of consistency in how violations are charged by prosecutors.

The charts below show information collected from the Minnesota Judicial Branch (MJB).



Minnesota Statute - 169.444 Sub. 1 and 1a Safety of school children; duties of other drivers.

The next few pages include the data that was collected from the SBSC grant project on violations and citations. The following information represents the grantees that had their cameras installed and reported before the end of the grant reporting period. Most of Phase 5 and Phase 6 grantees didn't have their cameras installed at that time. The report shows the grantees listed by county and school district. The MJB charges are listed from 2018-2022 as a comparison to what we saw from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Please note: Violations come from the bus company or school. Citations come from the law enforcement agency or county attorney.

"No driver wants to kill or seriously injure a child because of a stop arm violation," said OTS Director Michael Hanson. "It's frightening to see the number of violations captured by the cameras. This project will help motorists understand the dangers, learn the law and keep kids safe."

Note: Charges from MJB could still be pending and may result in convictions.

			Reported	MJB
County Name	ISD Name	Citations	Violations	Charges
Aitkin	Aitkin (ISD #1)	28	84	
	Hill City (ISD #2)	0	0	
	McGregor (ISD #4)	2	0	
Aitkin		30	84	7
Anoka	Anoka-Hennepin (ISD #11)	0	13	
	Centennial (ISD #12)	4	26	
	Columbia Heights (ISD #13)	0	3	
	Fridley (ISD #14)	0	62	
Anoka		4	104	19
Becker	Detroit Lakes (ISD #22)	0	0	
	Frazee-Vergas (ISD #23)	1	0	
Becker		1	0	3
Beltrami	Bemidji Area Schools (ISD #31)	4	20	
	Red Lake (ISD #38)	0	0	
Beltrami		4	20	4
Blue Earth	Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (ISD #2071)	2	2	
	Mankato (ISD #77)	15	59	
	Maple River (ISD #2135)	20	28	
	Saint Clair (ISD #75)	10	22	
Blue Earth		47	111	31
Brown	New Ulm (ISD #88)	6	53	
Brown		6	53	5
Carlton	Barnum (ISD #91)	0	0	
	Cloquet (ISD #94)	7	45	
	Cromwell-Wright (ISD #95)	0	2	
Carlton		7	47	3
Carver	Eastern Carver County (ISD #112)	2	30	
	Waconia (ISD #110)	0	0	
	Watertown-Mayer (ISD #111)	0	0	
Carver		2	30	13
Cass	Northland Community (ISD #118)	0	0	
	Pillager (ISD #116)	0	4	
Cass		0	4	1
Chippewa	MACCRAY (ISD #2180)	3	5	
Chippewa		3	5	2
Chisago	Rush City (ISD #139)	4	6	
Chisago		4	6	16
Clay	Moorhead (ISD #152)	0	0	
Clay		0	0	13
Clearwater	Clearbrook-Gonvick (ISD #2311)	0	0	
Clearwater		0	0	0
Cook	Cook County (ISD #166)	0	6	
Cook		0	6	0

			Reported	MJB
County Name	ISD Name	Citations	Violations	Charges
Cottonwood	Mountain Lake (ISD #173)	1	1	
	Windom (ISD #177)	28	28	
Cottonwood		29	29	7
Crow Wing	Brainerd (ISD #181)	10	30	
Crow Wing		10	30	2
Dakota	Burnsville-Eagan-Savage (ISD #191)	0	298	
	Farmington (ISD #192)	26	46	
	Hastings (ISD 200)	2	8	
	Lakeville (ISD #194)	0	0	
	Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan (ISD #196)	14	57	
Dakota		42	409	55
Dodge	Kasson-Mantorville (ISD #204)	0	20	
	Triton (ISD #2125)	0	13	
Dodge		0	33	4
Faribault	Blue Earth Area (ISD #2860)	0	0	
Faribault		0	0 appr	eciat 2
Fillmore	Fillmore Central (ISD #2198)	4	6	
	Kingsland (ISD #2137)	1	1	
	Mabel-Canton (ISD #238)	0	0	
	Rushford-Peterson (ISD #239)	0	0	
Fillmore		5	7	11
Freeborn	Albert Lea (ISD #241)	0	4	
Freeborn		0	4	4
Goodhue	Kenyon-Wanamingo (ISD #2172)	6	6	
	Pine Island (ISD #255)	0	1	
	Red Wing (ISD #256)	0	44	
Goodhue		6	51	6
Hennepin	Bloomington (ISD #271)	414	1,845	
	Eden Prairie (ISD #272)	0	0	
	Edina (ISD #273)	8	82	
	Hopkins (ISD #270)	0	32	
	Minnetonka (ISD #276)	0	38	
	Orono (ISD #278)	0	74	
	Osseo (ISD #279)	0	96	
	Richfield (ISD #280)	C	e	l
	Saint Louis Park (ISD (#233)	<u>(</u>)	25.	
	Wayzata (ISD #284)	2	742	
	Westonka (ISD #277)	0	8	
Hennepin		433	2,938	481
Houston	Houston (ISD #294)	0	0	
	La Crescent-Hokah (ISD #300)	2	4	
Houston		2	4	0
Isanti	Cambridge-Isanti (ISD #911)	30	149	
Isanti		30	149	19

			Reported	MJB
County Name	ISD Name	Citations	Violations	Charges
Itasca	Deer River (ISD #317)	0	3	
	Greenway (ISD #316)	0	0	
Itasca		0	3	0
Jackson	Jackson County Central (ISD #2895)	2	18	
Jackson		2	18	2
Kanabec	Mora (ISD #332)	0	0	
	Ogilvie (ISD #333)	1	1	
Kanabec		1	1	3
Kandiyohi	New London-Spicer (ISD #345)	2	20	
Kandiyohi		2	20	10
Koochiching	International Falls (ISD #361)	0	0	
	Littlefork-Big Falls (ISD #362)	0	0	
Koochiching		0	0	4
Lac qui Parle	Dawson-Boyd (ISD #378)	0	0	
Lac qui Parle		0	0	0
Lake	Lake Superior (ISD #381)	0	0	
Lake		0	0 accu	rate 3
Lake of the Woods	Lake of the Woods (ISD #390)	0	1	
Lake of the Woods		0	1	0
Le Sueur	Cleveland (ISD #391)	0	0	
	Tri-City United (ISD #2905)	3	15	
	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (ISD #2143)	0	0	
Le Sueur	,	3	15	7
Lincoln	Lake Benton (ISD #404)	0	0	
	Russell Tyler Ruthton (ISD #2902)	0	0	
Lincoln	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	0	0	1
Lyon	Lakeview (ISD #2167)	0	4	
,	Lynd (ISD #415)	0	0	
Lyon	, , ,	0	4	3
Marshall	Marshall County Central (ISD #441)	9	10	
	Stephen-Argyle (ISD #2856)	0	0	
Marshall		9	10	4
Mille Lacs	Milaca (ISD #912)	0	2	
	Princeton (ISD #477)	3	70	
Mille Lacs		3	72	2
Morrison	Little Falls (ISD #482)	7	26	_
	Pierz (ISD #484)	0	0	
Morrison		7	26	4
Mower	Austin (ISD #492)	6	7	
	Lyle (ISD #497)	0	0	
Mower		6	7	7
Nicollet	Nicollet (ISD #507)	0	0	
Nicollet		0	0	4
Nicollet		0	0	4

			Reported	MJB
County Name	ISD Name	Citations	Violations	Charges
Nobles	Round Lake-Brewster (ISD #2907)	0	3	
Nobles		0	3	11
Olmsted	Byron (ISD #531)	0	0	
	Chatfield (ISD #227)	17	20	
	Rochester (ISD #535)	0	239	
	Stewartville (ISD #534)	18	29	
Olmsted		35	288	39
Otter Tail	Battle Lake (ISD #542)	1	2	
	Fergus Falls (ISD #544)	8	80	
	Henning (ISD #545)	1	1	
	New York Mills (ISD #553)	0	3	
	Underwood (ISD #550)	1	12	
Otter Tail		11	98	10
Pennington	Goodridge (ISD #561)	0	1	
Pennington		0	1	3
Pine	Hinckley-Finlayson (ISD #2165)	0	0	
	Pine City (ISD #578)	1	18	
	Willow River (ISD #577)	0	4	
Pine		1	22 inf	ormation
Polk	Crookston (ISD #593)	0	0	
	East Grand Forks (ISD #595)	0	0	
	Win-E-Mac (ISD #2609)	0	0	
Polk		0	0	1
Pope	Minnewaska (ISD #2149)	13	16	
Pope		13	16	3
Ramsey	Mounds View (ISD #621)	1	62	
,	North Saint Paul-Maplewood Oakdale (ISD #622)	0	56	
	White Bear Lake Area (ISD #624)	0	1	
Ramsey	White bear Lake Area (150 #024)	1	119	5
Redwood	Cedar Mountain (ISD #2754)	0	0	5
neuwoou	Red Rock Central (ISD #2884)	6	8	
Redwood	Neu Noek central (155 #2004)	6	8	0
Rice	Faribault (ISD #656)	33	68	U U
Rice			hiaffiahi	32
Saint Louis	Catch your reader Chisholm (ISD #695)	e nira nii 4	14	100**
Same Louis	Duluth (ISD #709)	9	47	I
	Hermantown (ISD #700)	1	13	
	Rock Ridge Public Schools (ISD #2909)	0	0	
Saint Louis	Rock Ridge Public Schools (ISD #2909)	14	74	11
Scott	lordan (ISD #717)	0	1	
JCOLL	Jordan (ISD #717)			
	New Prague Area (ISD #721)	61	161	
Conth	Shakopee (ISD #720)	33	215	
Scott		94	377	44

			Reported	MJB
County Name	ISD Name	Citations	Violations	Charges
Sherburne	Becker (ISD #726)	2	38	
	Big Lake (ISD #727)	0	6	
	Independent 728	0	2	
Sherburne		2	46	9
Stearns	Albany (ISD #745)	0	0	
	Kimball (ISD #739)	3	5	
	Melrose (ISD #740)	1	1	
	Saint Cloud (ISD #742)	9	127	
	West Central Area Schools (ISD #2342)	0	2	
Stearns		13	135	26
Stevens	Chokio-Alberta (ISD #771)	2	8	
	Hancock (ISD #768)	0	0	
	Morris (ISD #2769)	0	0	
Stevens		2	8	7
Swift	Benson (ISD #777)	14	20	
	Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (ISD #775)	7	13	
Swift		21	33 ^{appr}	eciate
Todd	Staples-Motley (ISD #2170)	0	0	
Todd		0	0	5
Wabasha	Zumbrota-Mazeppa (ISD #2805)	0	10	
Wabasha		0	10	0
Waseca	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (ISD #2835)	3	4	
	Waseca (ISD #829)	2	8	
Waseca		5	12	2
Washington	Forest Lake (ISD #831)	134	156	
	South Washington County (ISD #833)	76	382	
	Stillwater (ISD (#834)	0	0	
Washington		210	538	53
Winona	Winona Independent (ISD #861)	0	6	
Winona		0	6	5
Wright	Annandale (ISD #876)	12	45	
	Dassel-Cokato (ISD #466)	0	0	
	Maple Lake (ISD #881)	0	0	
	Monticello (ISD #882)	62	60	
	Saint Michael-Albertville (ISD #885)	48	54	
Wright		122	159	58
Total		1,281	6,322	1,141

Summary of anticipated costs

The grantees reported quarterly about violations and citations. They also reported on the administrative costs to facilitate this project with the new stop arm cameras. The grantees reported on the staff time to process the video violations and sharing with law enforcement. They also gave feedback on maintaining the hardware and software as needed. When asked how long they believe the stop arm camera systems will last in Minnesota, there wasn't a definitive answer from most. This is a new tool to use across the state, so we don't have the history to gauge how many years on average they will operate. We also have severe weather and road conditions to consider here in Minnesota. Please see the appendix for the feedback we received from some of the grantees on future funding needs.

The chart below is a recap of the costs that were reported by grantees. Keep in mind that we had grantees with just one bus to a grantee that had over 500 buses in their fleet.

This is based off a yearly cost to the school or bus company to facilitate and maintain the stop arm camera systems.

Anticipated Transportation Company					
Administrative Cost					
Lowest	Highest	Average			
\$43.63	\$157,136.25				

"I believe every school district in MN should have stop arm cameras on their buses. How do you not see a giant yellow bus with red flashing lights?"

~feedback from a grantee

Law enforcement perspective - SBSC grant project

OTS asked law enforcement agencies to estimate the annual cost of reviewing violations for citations in a survey.

We had 21 responses to this survey. The chart below depicts their answers. It is imperative to keep in mind that these numbers came from both the Twin Cities Metro Area and Greater Minnesota.

Anticipated Law Enforcement Cost					
Lowest	Highest	Average			
\$43.00	\$82,300.00	\$10,236.56			

Recomendations from law enforcement

Another question we asked in that same survey: "Do you have any recommendations you would like us to share with State Legislators regarding statutory changes needed for better enforcement?" Here are a few of those answers:

- "I think we should ensure bus stops are off or away from major or four lane roadways."
- "I believe 169.444 is fine but they should be reminded the need to identify drivers is very important if they consider any changes to the Window Tint statute (169.71), i.e. if they decide to allow for darker tint."
- "It is my opinion that a statewide submission portal would be the easiest way for bus companies and law enforcement to handle stop arm violations. A standardized driver report can be developed. The companies could log into the portal, select the location of the violation on a map, upload the driver report/video, and the software would then assign the submitted report to the appropriate law enforcement agency to the incident. The law enforcement agency would be notified that they were assigned a case and they could assign it to a specific officer for investigation. When the investigation is complete, the agency could enter a disposition (unfounded, warning, cited, charged by complaint)."
- "Potential legislation change creating an enhanceable offence, i.e. first violation is a misdemeanor, second violation is a gross misdemeanor."
- "Statute language clarifying that video captured on a bus camera that shows a stop arm violation under MN statute 169.444 can be turned over to law enforcement for the narrow scope of investigation of the violation without repercussion to the school district for which the bus operates."

Law enforcement perspective - SBSC grant project

The following is more feedback from law enforcement in general on the stop arm camera project and the future:

- "WE NEED FUNDING FOR THE OTHER 7000 BUSES IN MN!!"
- "A concern is with finding a way to continue to fund the camera program as grant money goes away and as cameras start to age out with newer technology. One possible funding source could be from revenue generated from stop arm violation citations."
- "A byproduct of the camera system has been accountability on bus drivers. Making sure that they are not setting up drivers to "fail" by throwing on the red lights, leaving a driver no time to react. The ability to view other actions of the bus driver such as stop location, leaving before the kids have cleared the roadway and other bus driver safety issues. Using that video to help train and educate bus drivers to make them better."
- "The cameras on the buses have given us in public safety the ability to express how bad this problem is. Stop arm violators put at risk our most vulnerable people our children. These are the people that have to rely on an adult to do the right thing to keep them safe. They are naïve and believe that they will. We as responsible drivers want to believe that drivers will do the right thing around school buses, but they don't. Cameras on buses showing these violations has helped us in public safety to put the exclamation point on this problem that we knew existed. There are so many scary close calls and unfortunately tragedies that have been captured. These videos help us emphasize the need for improved safety measures with buses and bus stop locations, added enforcement and stronger prosecution."
- "The camera system is, again like for officers, to defend and support what the bus driver is reporting. It is no longer a he says / she says argument. It is on video and again strengthens the ability to prosecute a violation."
- "The video camera program for many PD's had strengthened the working relationship with our bus companies – working together to hold drivers accountable for violations thru stronger evidence of the violation – much like we have seen for years within car squad cams and DWI arrests. You just can't express in words how bad some drivers SFST's are. You have to see it on video. I think the same is true with the egregious and dangerous stop arm violations."

Next Steps - SBSC grant project

OTS is committed to continuing the efforts to help keep school aged children safe in Minnesota. Below you will find steps we feel will continue the ground breaking efforts of this grant project.

Provide funding to equip all buses We believe that it is essential for all of Minnesota buses to be equipped with the stop arm cameras. Provide on-going funding for camera maintenance In order to keep the cameras operating and the software updated, funding to update the systems on the buses must be available. Provide funding for law enforcement and adjudication This project has created a burden on staffing to keep up with the administrative duties to process the influx of violations that are being reported

Include school bus safety in driver's education

Our new drivers represent a high number of the Stop Arm violators. Future drivers need to learn safe driving behaviors. Driver's Education can be a great platform to shine a spotlight on safety for school aged children.

Explore legislative solutions

now and in the future.

Minnesota needs to improve consistency of enforcement, prosecution, and adjudication of reported School Bus Stop Arm violations.

Conclusion

We have taken this grant project across our great state of Minnesota and have heard from many school bus and law enforcement professionals. We have heard an overwhelming that this is a very important tool for school bus drivers. The Stop Arm Camera Grant was a great success. Nevertheless, we have more work to do. Changing driver's behaviors takes time and consistent messaging.

Proof it is working

- Schools, bus companies and law enforcement all agree: it is an essential tool for bus drivers
- Number of citations is rising demonstrating the ability to better capture violations and educate motorists.

More education and awareness

- Bus safety in driver's education
- Community Awareness of driver's duties and bus safety

Funding is needed

- Funding for stop arm cameras
- Funding for law enforcement
- Funding for city and county attorneys
- Funding for education and awareness campaigns

Central violation reporting system

- Funding for statewide reporting system
- Schools, bus companies and law enforcement accessible

"For a parent, the thought of losing a child to a vehicle blowing past an extended school bus stop arm is unthinkable," said Michael Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety director. "Yet we see too many drivers who are distracted or place their priorities over the safety of our youngest Minnesotans. The camera grant project is a significant effort to keep kids safe, hold selfish or inattentive drivers accountable, and change dangerous driving choices."

Appendix contents

- Appendix A SBSC legislation Appendix B - SBSC request for proposal Appendix C - Sample round table agenda Appendix D - Outreach examples Appendix E - SBSC news releases by Phase Appendix F - SBSC grant media and information links
- Appendix G Pictures
- Appendix H SBSC grantee feedback
- Appendix I "Proof it's working"
- Appendix J School bus safety resources

Appendix A - SBSC legislation

21.20 Subd. 5. Traffic Safety 8,477,000 8,464,000 21.21 Appropriations by Fund 21.22 2022, 2023 21.23 General 7,983,000 7,970,000 21.24 Trunk Highway 494,000 494,000

21.25 \$7,398,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$7,398,000 21.26 in fiscal year 2023 are from the general fund 21.27 for grants to school districts, nonpublic 21.28 schools, charter schools, and companies that 21.29 provide school bus services, for the purchase 21.30 and installation of school bus stop-signal arm 21.31 camera systems. In awarding grants, the 21.32 commissioner must prioritize: regular route 21.33 type A, B, C, and D buses; newer buses; and 21.34 buses that do not already have a stop-signal 22.1 arm or forward-facing camera. Cameras 22.2 purchased with grants awarded pursuant to 22.3 this section must be used within the state. 22.4 When implementing the grant program, the commissioner must require grant recipients to 22.5 22.6 submit an estimate of the recipient's 22.7 anticipated ongoing costs associated with the 22.8 use of the cameras, including but not limited 22.9 to costs for operating and maintaining the 22.10 cameras, identifying violations, and methods 22.11 for compiling video evidence of violations and 22.12 providing the evidence to law enforcement. If 22.13 the money in the account is sufficient to fund 22.14 all requests, the commissioner must not require 22.15 a local match. The commissioner may seek 22.16 assistance from the commissioner of education 22.17 in administering the grants. This is a onetime 22.18 appropriation and is available until June 30, 22.19 2025. 22.20 \$110,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$94,000 in 22.21 fiscal year 2023 are from the general fund for 22.22 staff costs to administer grants for school bus 22.23 stop-signal arm cameras. This is a onetime 22.24 appropriation and is available until June 30,

22.25 2025.

22.26 The base for the general fund is \$478,000 in 22.27 each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

119.10 Sec. 138. SCHOOL BUS STOP-SIGNAL ARM CAMERA GRANTS REPORT. 119.11 By December 15, 2023, the commissioner of public safety, in coordination with the state 119.12 court administrator, must submit a report on school bus stop-signal arm camera systems to 119.13 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction 119.14 over transportation finance and policy. At a minimum, the report must include: 119.15 (1) an overview of the school bus stop-signal arm grant program implemented pursuant 119.16 to article 1, section 4, subdivision 5, including how the commissioner administered the 119.17 program and how grant recipients were selected;

119.18 (2) a listing of grants made pursuant to article 1, section 4, subdivision 5, including the 119.19 recipient, the amount received, the type and model year of bus on which the cameras were 119.20 installed, and whether the bus was equipped with any cameras prior to receiving the grant; 119.21 (3) the number of violations of Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, subdivisions 1 and 119.22 1a, captured on school bus stop-arm cameras between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2023, 119.23 broken down by school district;

119.24 (4) the number of citations issued for violations of Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, 119.25 subdivisions 1 and 1a, between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2023, broken down by school 119.26 district; 119.27 (5) the number of citations issued for violations of Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, 119.28 subdivisions 1 and 1a, between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2021, broken down by county;

119.29 (6) a summary of the anticipated ongoing costs reported by grant recipients as required 119.30 by paragraph (a); 119.31 (7) recommendations on statutory changes that would allow for better enforcement of 119.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, subdivisions 1 and 1a; and

Article 4 Sec. 138.

120.1 (8) recommendations on future funding needs for school bus stop-signal arm camera 120.2 systems. 120.3 The commissioner may seek input from schools, bus companies, and local law enforcement

120.4 when preparing the report.



School Bus Stop-Signal Arm Camera Grant Request for Proposal

Grant Overview

The Minnesota <u>Office of Traffic Safety</u>, a Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, seeks to provide funding to school districts, nonpublic schools, charter schools, and/or companies that provide school bus services to install and operate school bus stop-signal arm camera systems.

Funding

Funding Appropriation

In 2021 Special Session the Minnesota State Legislators <u>appropriated funding</u> for this project to the Department of Public Safety. Details of this piece of legislation are included as Appendix A, Grant Provisions.

Funding Availability

• A total of approximately \$7,398,000 is available to be awarded in Fiscal Year 2023.

• The number of grants awarded will depend on the number of buses covered under each grant application as well as the final costs to install and procure the equipment.

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process with review by a committee representing pupil transportation experts and the staff of the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. Grant awards will be announced based on the timeline for applications submissions section below.

A grantee may only incur eligible expenditures once a grant contract agreement has been fully executed. Expenditures prior to the grant effective date are not eligible for reimbursement.

Priorities & Populations Served

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making. <u>Policy 08-02</u> establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities. This grant will serve:

• School age children who ride on school buses throughout the state of Minnesota by reminding drivers to stop when these children are getting on and off school buses.

Competitive Priority

Priority will be given to applicants that propose to install cameras on regular route type A, B, C, and D buses; newer buses; and buses not currently equipped with a stop-signal arm or forward facing camera system.



Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- Minnesota School districts
- Minnesota Nonpublic schools
- Minnesota Charter schools
- Company that provides school bus services in Minnesota

Eligible Activities and Expenses:

As referenced in <u>legislation</u>, grantees will be reimbursed for their purchase and installation of school bus stop-signal arm camera systems. Cameras purchased with grants awarded must be used within the state.

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to: Fundraising, Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services, Lobbyists, political contributions, Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges or contingency funds, Parking or traffic violations, transportation and travel expenses outside of Minnesota.

Collaboration

Collaboration with local law enforcement is essential for the successful implementation of this grant. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of support from their primary law enforcement agency.

Instructions

SWIFT Supplier Registration Instructions

In order to receive a payment from the State of Minnesota, you must be a <u>Registered Supplier in SWIFT</u>. Please see Appendix C for details. **Questions on registering as a Supplier should be emailed to the MMB Supplier Help Line at** <u>efthelpline.mmb@state.mn.us</u>

DPS e-grants Instructions

Completed proposals must be received via the DPS Web-Based <u>e-grants</u> system by the close of the business day 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 15th, 2022. Late proposals will not be considered.

If you are currently not an assigned user of the DPS <u>e-grants</u> system, click on "new user". If you need assistance with e-grants, contact the OTS e-grants System Administrator, <u>Kristen Oster</u>. Applicants must be assigned a username and set up a password before they can apply to the RFP, which may take more than one business day to receive.

Questions and Request for Clarification

Questions and requests for clarification or additional information must be e-mailed to OTS Program Coordinator <u>Rahva Geisler</u> no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT), on Thursday, September 1st, 2022. To ensure transparency and fairness to all applicants, answers to questions asked and clarifications sought will be posted within two business days on the <u>OTS Website</u>.

This request for proposal does not obligate the State to complete the project, and the State reserves the right to cancel the solicitation if it is considered to be in the State's best interest. All costs incurred in



responding to this RFP will be borne by the responder. Fax, e-mail, and printed proposals will not be accepted. Final selection of grantees is anticipated to be completed by November 2022.

Application Content

Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Requirements for all Grantees

- A. The grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified (<u>Minn. Stat. §363A.02</u>). The grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train and recruit minority persons, women and persons with disabilities.
- B. The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability for any position in which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship (Minnesota Rules, part <u>5000.3500).</u>
- C. The grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Selection Criteria and Weight

A detailed outline of how applications will be scored and weighted is listed in Appendix B.

Additional documents

For the application to be considered complete, the applicant must provide the following documents in their specified location in e-grants:

- Exhibit A: School Bus Camera Grant Project Description
 - Describe why your school district, school or transportation company wishes to install stop-signal arm cameras on its buses. Provide supporting data on prior school bus passing violations.
 - o Provide an overview of your public awareness and outreach program.
- Exhibit B: School Bus Camera Grant Work Plan and Budget
 - Fleet will be defined as the number and type of school buses upon which cameras will be installed.
 - Bus route types (priority is given to regular route type A, B, C, and D buses).
 - The age of the buses, and whether or not they are currently equipped with stop-signal arm or forward-facing cameras.
 - A detailed description of the public outreach and education campaign that will be undertaken prior to implementation of the camera program.



- Explain how drivers will be educated about why they must stop for school buses and how the cameras will capture violations.
 - Budget items must be based on per unit basis. There is a \$3,000 Cost per unit maximum. This may include the camera, any parts, software, and installation fees. Must upload a quote, bid, or invoice.
- o <u>For example,</u> if we have 10 buses upon which to install 10 cameras
 - Cost for procuring 10 cameras
 - Cost for installing 10 cameras
 - Local Match should be entered as \$0.00

It is anticipated that some applicants would receive partial funding and not enough to equip their entire fleet.

• Letter of support from local law enforcement agency(s) or an explanation for how enforcement actions would occur. If bus routes cover more than one county, a letter is needed from each agency. For example: If your routes are in more than one city or county, then you will need letters from each agency.

Financial Review Process

All Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) applying for grants in the state of Minnesota must undergo a financial review prior to a receiving a grant award of \$25,000 or higher.

To comply with <u>Policy 08-06</u>, Financial Review of Nongovernmental Organizations, NGO's must submit one of the following documents with their application, based on the following criteria:

- Grant applicants with annual income of less than \$50,000, or who have not been in existence long enough to have a completed IRS Form 990 or audit, should submit their most recent boardreviewed or internal financial statements.
- Grant applicants with total annual revenue of \$50,000 or more but less than \$750,000 should submit their most recent IRS Form 990.
- Grant applicants with total annual revenue of more than \$750,000 should submit their most recent certified financial audit.

Attestation and Agreement

The application section of e-grants will require you to attest that you have read and agree to these additional items:

- Program Guidelines for the School Bus Stop-Signal Arm Camera Grant Program.
- Terms and Conditions for Non-State Agencies.
- Voter Registration Requirement: The grantee will comply with Minn. Stat. §201.162 by providing voter registration services for its employees and for the public served by the grantee.
- Additional Reporting Requirements: Grantees must also agree to provide the following information to the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety for these relevant state reports upon request or as directed below, working with local law enforcement as necessary:
 - o The type and model year of the buses on which the cameras were installed;



- o Whether the buses were equipped with any cameras prior to receiving the grant;
- The number of violations of Minnesota Statute, section 169.444, subdivisions 1 and 1a, captured on school bus stop-arm cameras between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2023, broken down by school district (*must provide at least guarterly*);
- The number of citations issued for violation of Minnesota Statute, section 169,444, subdivisions 1 and 1a, between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2022, broken down by county; and
- A summary of the anticipated ongoing costs associated with the use of the cameras, including but not limited to costs for operating and maintaining the cameras, identifying violations, and methods for compiling video evidence of violations and providing the evidence to law enforcement.
- In order to provide the necessary data requested by the Minnesota State Legislators, subrecipients must report <u>Preliminary Violations</u> to the Minnesota State Patrol using the linked preliminary violations form.

Timelines for application submissions and reviews

Application Submissions

Phase I - already completed.

Phase II - already completed.

Phase III - already completed.

Phase IV -

- Open for Applications: August 4, 2022
- Application Questions: September 1, 2022
- Application Deadline: September 15th, 2022
- Committee Review September 2022
- Work Planning: October November 2022
- Awards Announced December 2022

Grant applicants will only need to submit a single application.

In the event that funding is depleted during any of the phases, applications that were not awarded will be carried forward to the succeeding phase for review until all available FY 22 and FY 23 funds have been awarded.

Additional Statues and Resources to Review

Grant contract agreement templates are available for review at: <u>Office of Grants Management Policies,</u> <u>Statutes, and Forms/Forms and FAQs tab</u>

Public Data

Per Minn. Stat. § 13.599:

 Names and addresses of grant applicants and amount requested are public data once proposal responses are opened.
Appendix B - SBSC request for proposal



- All remaining data in proposal responses (except trade secret data as defined and classified in §13.37) are public data after the evaluation process is completed.
- All data created or maintained by the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret data as defined and classified in <u>§13.37</u>) are public data after the evaluation process is completed.

For the purposes of this grant, the evaluation process is completed when all grant contract agreements are fully executed.

Conflicts of Interest

State grant policy requires that steps and procedures be in place to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers (<u>Minn. Stat.§16B.98</u> <u>Subd. 2-3</u>, <u>08-01</u> Conflict of Interest in State Grant-Making Policy effective date 1/1/21</u>).

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- a grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the Department due to competing duties or loyalties; or
- a grantee's or applicant's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties.

In cases where a conflict of interest is in question or disclosed, the applicants or grantees will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to, revising the grant work plan or grantee duties to mitigate the risk, requesting the grant applicant to submit an organizational conflict of interest mitigation plan, disqualification from eligibility for the grant award, amending the grant or termination of the grant contract agreement.

Appendix C - Round table agenda

School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant Meeting – May 23, 2023 – Mankato, MN

Round table discussion ideas:

Transportation:

Any problems/ questions on installment and placement of cameras? Adding to your Pre-route checks

Any concerns about following up with LE on violations for your quarterly reporting? Outreach in your communities – What have you done? Partner with Schools and LE? Any comments/ issues from LE or Prosecutors on quality of video What was the most challenging portion of the project from application to implementation? What would you do differently moving forward or in future installations?

Law enforcement:

What is your preferred method of notification on the violations? Any community or violator response to use of cameras? What additional information do you need from transportation? Citations/charges issued so far (rough idea) If none, why not Do you see a need for funding to handle the number of violations coming in?

Prosecutors:

What criteria are you using to determine to charge out the violation? Any concerns on processes LE and transportation use to get video to you? With more video evidence available how are you handling these cases? Easier to press charges, less likely to negotiate or do a plea deal? Citations/charges issued so far (rough idea) If none, why not Do you see a need for funding to handle the number of citations coming in?

Appendix D - Outreach examples



If you aren't stopping Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights... for these flashing lights!



Appendix E - SBSC Phase 1 news release



NEWS RELEASE-

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACT Dave Boxum 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us

Feb. 14, 2022

More Than \$3.5 Million for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras to Stop Motorists Risking Students' Lives

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Providing Grants to 32 Schools and Transportation Companies Statewide

ST. PAUL — A child should never have to fear boarding a school bus or getting dropped off, but across Minnesota, motorists failing to stop for school buses are risking children's lives. To change dangerous driving behaviors and keep students safe, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety is awarding more than \$3.5 million in grants to 32 schools and school bus companies to install stop arm camera systems. The project is a joint effort with the Minnesota State Patrol and its school bus safety work.

"For a parent, the thought of losing a child to a vehicle blowing past an extended school bus stop arm is unthinkable," said Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety director. "Yet we see too many drivers who are distracted or place their priorities over the safety of our youngest Minnesotans. The camera grant project is a significant effort to keep kids safe, hold selfish or inattentive drivers accountable, and change dangerous driving choices."

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

The initial grant awards are Phase 1 of a larger stop arm camera grant project. Minnesota state legislators approved funding for this year and 2023, totaling \$14.7 million. The funding will be used for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software programs. The Phase 2 grant application process is now open and runs through March 15. Find grant application information here.

The statewide list of Phase 1 grantees is here.

Minnesota Drivers Are Endangering Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies across Minnesota to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. In the past five years, law enforcement cited more than 4,600 drivers for stop arm violations.

Stop Arm Violations Cited

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
1,120	1,075	1,176	512	769	4,652

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child. •

Motorists

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses. especially in neighborhoods and school zones
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away

Students

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eve contact with motorists before proceeding

School Bus Safety Resources

- Minnesota State Patrol: School Bus Stop Arm Safety. https://youtu.be/AwKQ2GpsNFE
- Stop Arm 30 Second PSA
 - https://vimeo.com/mastcom/review/351049494/52fa3e484b
- About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

DPS comprises 11 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur programs to improve driver beneficial and reduce the dealins and serious injuries into decar on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety program. DPS-OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program and for the child seats for needy families program.



Appendix E - SBSC Phase 2 news release

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OFFICE OF

-NEWS RELEASE-



Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACTS: Dave Boxum 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us Nicole Roddy

651-201-7571 nicole.roddy@state.mn.us

July 12, 2022

More Than \$3.7 Million for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras to Help Keep Students Safe

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Providing Second Round of Grants to Schools and Transportation Companies Statewide

ST. PAUL – To change dangerous driving behaviors and keep students safe, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) is awarding more than \$3.7 million to 42 schools and transportation companies for stop arm camera systems. This is Phase 2 of a project that is a joint effort with the Minnesota State Patrol and its school bus safety work

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

- This second round of grant awards represents Phase 2 of a larger stop arm camera grant project. Here is the list of Phase 2 grant
- DPS-OTS announced Phase 1 grant awards of more than \$3.5 million to 32 schools and transportation companies in February 2022
- Minnesota state legislators approved \$14.7 million in total funding for this project for 2022 and 2023
- · The grants will reimburse schools and transportation companies for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software program

"Schoolkids shouldn't have to worry when getting on and off the bus, and no parent should have to fear losing their child to a careless driver," said Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety director. "Bus drivers see the violations and near misses. They have a lot to pay attention to as drivers so the camera systems will be an additional, effective tool to help

them and law enforcement find the violators. The cameras will help keep kids safe, hold selfish or inattentive drivers accountable, and change dangerous driving choices

Minnesota Drivers Are Endangering Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. In the past five years, law enforcement cited 4,652 drivers for stop arm violations.

Stop Arm Violations Cited 2017 - 2021

- 2017 1.120 violations
- 2018 1 075 violations
- 2019 1,176 violations
- 2020 512 violations
- 2021 769 violations

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services conducted its illegal passing survey in Minnesota. For the one-day survey this year, school bus drivers observed 1,003 stop arm violations.

Year	Number of School Bus Drivers	Number of Violations Observed in One Day			
2022	4,359	1,003			
2019	2,376	625			
2018	2,802	583			
2017	3,659	703			
2016	2,623	529			
2015	3,570	613			

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- · State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away

Students

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eve contact with motorists before proceeding

School Bus Safety Resources

Minnesota State Patrol: School Bus Stop Arm Safety, https://youtu.be/AwKQ2GpsNFE

Stop Arm 30 Second PSA

https://vimeo.com/mastcom/review/351049494/52fa3e484b

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

DPS comprises 11 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, around and gamming, emotion and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety program. DPS-OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle crefet in grame, biblid cost for acods to partice programs and enduced the state program program. safety program, child seats for needy families program and school bus stop arm camera project.

Appendix E - SBSC Phase 3 news release

OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

NEWS RELEASE-

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACTS: Dave Boxun 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us

Nicole Roddy 651-201-7571 nicole.roddv@state.mn.us

Sept. 26, 2022

Nearly \$3 Million for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras to Help with Safety, Education & Enforcement

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Providing Third Round of Grants to Schools & Transportation Companie s Statewid

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) announced a third phase of grants for school bus stop arm camera systems. DPS-OTS partnering with the Minnesota State Patrol and local police and sheriff departments across the state for an additional \$2.9 million in grants to 21 schools and transportation companies

"As a driver, impatience or distraction behind the wheel is a potential killer around a school As a dired, implation of distribution being the more rise potential while about a solidor bus," said DPS-OTS Director Mike Hanson. "The violations and near misses when a driver nearly takes the life of a child are so frightening and disturbing. Think about that child. Think about that child's parents, bus driver or other students on the bus. The stop arm camera project will help educate drivers on the importance of school bus safety and hold them accountable if they choose to endanger young lives."

Education and awareness are part of the project to help drivers make the safe decision to obey the law and stop for buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. The cameras will help schools and law enforcement find the violators and hold them accountable.

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

- This round of grant awards represents Phase 3 of a larger stop arm camera grant project. Here is the list of Phase 3 grantees.
- Previously, DPS-OTS announced:
- Phase 1 grant awards of more than \$3.5 million to 31 schools and transportation companies in February 2022.
- Phase 2 grant awards of more than \$3.7 million to 42 schools and transportation companies in July 2022

- Minnesota state legislators approved \$14.7 million in total funding for this project for 2022 and 2023. Applications for Phase 4 grants are now in the review process and the Phase 5 grant application process is pending.
- The grants will reimburse schools and transportation companies for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software program

Minnesota Drivers Risking Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. In the past five years, law enforcement cited 4,652 drivers for stop arm violations.

Stop Arm Violations Cited 2017-2021

- 2017 1,120 violations
- 2018 1.075 violations
- 2019 1,176 violations
- 2020 512 violations
- 2021 769 violations

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services conducts an annual illegal passing survey in Minnesota. For the one-day survey this year, school bus drivers observed 1,003 stop arm violations in a single day.

Year	Number of School Bus Drivers	Number of Violations Observed in One Day
2022	4,359	1,003
2019	2,376	625
2018	2,802	583
2017	3,659	703
2016	2,623	529
2015	3,570	613

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions awav

Students

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- · Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

School Bus Safety Resources

School bus stop-arm safety video to help educate Minnesotans

30-second stop arm PSA.

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 10 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide <u>Toward Zero</u> Deaths traffic safety program. DPS-OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program, child seats for needy families program and school bus stop arm camera project.

Appendix E - SBSC Phase 4 news release



Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACTS: Dave Boxum 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us

Nicole Roddy 651-201-7571 nicole.roddy@state.mn.us

Feb. 8, 2023

Nearly \$1.4 Million for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras to Help with Safety, Education & Enforcement

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Providing Fourth Round of Grants to Schools & Transportation Companies Statewide

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) announced nearly \$1.4 million in grants to help keep students safe as they get on and off school buses.

The program is a partnership with law enforcement agencies including the Minnesota State Patrol, police departments and sheriff's offices statewide. Phase four grants, the latest iteration of the stop arm camera grant project, go to 19 schools and transportation companies. Grant applicants provided support letters from local law enforcement agencies, an outreach plan and demonstrated need by sharing violation numbers from the last two years.

In addition to enforcement, the project funds education and awareness efforts to encourage drivers to obey the law and stop for buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. The cameras provided through the project will help schools and law enforcement find the violators and hold them accountable.

"Drivers need to pay attention and not let impatience get the best of them near a school bus picking up or dropping off kids," said OTS Director Mike Hanson. "Driving distracted or thinking you can quickly drive around a bus could kill or seriously injure a child. What a horrific, easily preventable consequence. Drive smart and help keep our youngest Minnesotans safe."

Earlier grant recipients recognize how valuable the project is to protecting Minnesota students.

"As a school bus driver, so many times I've felt that sudden fear and frustration because a motorist just disregards a stop arm and drives right past the bus," said Michael Lane, shop foreman and bus driver, Cloquet Transit, LCS Coaches. "We're talking about a child's life. The safety of the students is always on my mind on my route. Thanks to the grant project, we've installed new stop arm cameras on our buses. We're able to much more easily identify violators and work with law enforcement on driver accountability and education."

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

- View a list of phase four grantees. Minnesota state legislators approved \$14.7 million in total funding for this project for 2022 and 2023.
- In 2022, OTS announced more than \$10 million in grant awards in phases one through three. A future OTS announcement will highlight phase five grantees. The phase six grant application review is underway.
- The grants will reimburse schools and transportation companies for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software programs.

Minnesota Drivers Risking Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. From 2017-2021, law enforcement cited 4,652 drivers for stop arm violations.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services conducts an annual illegal passing survey in Minnesota. School bus drivers observed 1,003 stop arm violations in a single day during the 2022 survey.

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
 - Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away.

Students

- · When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with
 motorists before proceeding.

School Bus Safety Resources

· School bus stop-arm safety video to help educate Minnesotans.

• <u>30-second stop arm PSA</u>.

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 10 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide <u>Toward Zero</u> <u>Deatins</u> traffic safety program. OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program, child seats for needy families program and school bus stop arm camera project.

Appendix E - SBSC Phase 5 news release

OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

-NEWS RELEASE-

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACTS: Dave Boxum 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us

Nicole Roddy 651-201-7571 nicole.roddy@state.mn.us

March 23, 2023

Schools and Transportation Companies Receiving \$1.4 Million in Grants for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Awarding Fifth Round of Grants to Help with Safety, Education and Enforcement Statewide

ST. PAUL — Sixteen schools and transportation companies will receive grants to install bus stop arm cameras to help keep students safe as they go to and from school. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) announced \$1.4 million in phase five grants to change dangerous driving behaviors and protect kids.

The grant project combines enforcement, education and awareness efforts so drivers obey the law and stop for buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. The cameras will help schools and law enforcement find the violators and hold them accountable.

Stop arm <u>camera videos from previous grantees</u> highlight the dangerous prevalence of drivers not stopping for flashing lights and extended stop arms.

"It's such a helpless, terrifying moment for both the child and the bus driver when a vehicle nearly strikes a student," said OTS Director Mike Hanson. "If you can't pay attention and follow the law near a school bus, these cameras will help law enforcement find you so you don't keep putting kids at risk and cause a senseless tragedy."

The project is a partnership with law enforcement agencies including the Minnesota State Patrol, police departments and sheriff's offices statewide. Grant applicants provided support letters from local law enforcement agencies, an outreach plan and demonstrated need by sharing violation numbers from the last two years.

Earlier grant recipients recognize how valuable the project is to protecting Minnesota students.

"We do all that we can to keep our students safe, but one reckless, distracted or unaware driver can end a child's life in seconds," said Tim Rybak, director of operations, Bloomington Public Schools. "We see the violations and can't help thinking about the worst possible outcome. The stop arm cameras are an invaluable tool, and as this project continues, more motorists are going to learn to make the right choice around school buses."

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

- View a list of phase five grantees. Minnesota state legislators approved \$14.7 million in total funding for this project for 2022 and 2023.
- OTS has announced \$13 million in grant awards in phases one through five. A future OTS announcement will highlight phase six grantees.
- The grants will reimburse schools and transportation companies for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software programs.

Minnesota Drivers Risking Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. From 2017 to 2021, law enforcement cited 4,652 drivers for stop arm violations.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services conducts an annual illegal passing survey in Minnesota. School bus drivers observed 1,003 stop arm violations in a single day during the 2022 survey.

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists

- On undivided roads, motorists traveling both directions must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and an extended stop arm.
- Traffic traveling the opposite direction on a divided roadway with a separating median such as a cement wall or boulevard is not required to stop.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away.

Students

- · When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

School Bus Safety Resources

- School bus stop-arm safety video to help educate Minnesotans.
- 30-second stop arm PSA

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 10 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

About the Office of Traffic Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) designs, implements and coordinates federally funded traffic safety enforcement and education programs to improve driver behaviors and reduce the deaths and serious injuries that occur on Minnesota roads. These efforts form a strong foundation for the statewide <u>Toward Zero</u> <u>Deaths</u> traffic safety program. OTS also administers state funds for the motorcycle safety program, child seats for needy families program and school bus stop arm camera project.

Appendix E - SBSC Phase 6 news release



-NEWS RELEASE-

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety

CONTACTS: Dave Boxum 651-201-7569 dave.boxum@state.mn.us

651-201-7571 nicole.roddy@state.mn.us

May 4, 2023

Nicole Roddy

Schools and Transportation Companies Receiving Nearly \$1.2 Million in Phase Six Grants for School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Awarding Final Round of Grants to Help with Safety, Education and Enforcement Statewide

ST. PAUL — Twenty-seven schools and transportation companies will receive grants to install bus stop arm cameras to help keep students safe as they go to and from school. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) announced nearly \$1.2 million in its sixth and final round of grants to change dangerous driving behaviors and protect children. Here is the list of phase six grantees.

The grant project combines enforcement, education and awareness efforts so drivers obey the law and stop for buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. The cameras are helping schools and law enforcement find the violators and hold them accountable.

Violations Captured with Stop Arm Cameras

Stop arm <u>camera videos from previous grantees</u> highlight the dangerous prevalence of drivers not stopping for flashing lights and extended stop arms.

Here is a <u>sample list of schools and violation numbers</u> reported by First Student and Palmer Bus Service. First Student reported 127 violations and Palmer Bus Service reported 105 violations recorded by stop arm cameras from Jan 1-March 31, 2023. Final numbers from all crantees are being compiled and will be reported later this year.

Schools and transportation companies began installing cameras in 2022 as the multiphase grant project got underway. The grant project will equip around 7,000 school buses with stop arm cameras, representing about 59 percent of all school buses in Minnesota.

Minnesota Drivers Risking Students' Lives

Law enforcement agencies work with schools and transportation companies to cite drivers failing to stop for school buses with flashing lights and stop arms extended. Prior to the grant project, law enforcement cited 4,652 drivers for stop arm violations from 2017 to 2021.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services conducts an annual illegal passing survey in Minnesota. Participating school bus drivers observed 464 stop arm violations in a single day during the 2023 survey.

"No driver wants to kill or seriously injure a child because of a stop arm violation," said OTS Director Mike Hanson. "It's frightening to see the number of violations captured by the cameras. This project will help motorists understand the dangers, learn the law and keep kids safe."

Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

- OTS announced \$14 million in state-funded grant awards in phases one through six during 2022 and 2023.
- The project is a partnership with law enforcement agencies including the Minnesota State Patrol, police departments and sheriff's offices statewide. Grant applicants provided support letters from local law enforcement agencies, an outreach plan and demonstrated need by sharing violation numbers from the last two years.
- The grants reimburse schools and transportation companies for purchasing and installing stop arm camera systems and supporting software programs.

Follow the Law, Keep Children Safe

- State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the stop arm fully extended.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine.
- Drivers can face criminal charges for passing a school bus on the right, passing when a child is outside the bus, or injuring or killing a child.

Motorists

- On undivided roads, motorists traveling both directions must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and an extended stop arm.
- Traffic traveling the opposite direction on a divided roadway with a separating median such as a cement wall or boulevard is not required to stop.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings at all times is to put the distractions away.

Students

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with
 motorists before proceeding.

School Bus Safety Resources

- School bus stop arm safety video to help educate Minnesotans.
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Appendix G - SBSC pictures



Site visit - Farmington



NW TZD Regional Workshop 2023

Appendix G - SBSC pictures



Palmer Bus Company - Bus Safety Day

Appendix G - SBSC pictures



West Hennepin Stop Arm Violation Stop



Hudson - crash survivor

Appendix H - Grantee feedback

Do you have any feedback or recommendations regarding future funding needs in Stop Arm Camera System Grant Projects?

- "Not to have so much info required to submit. To many man hours to upload everything."
- "The police have asked for dash camera footage, they want to see what led up to and proceeded the event. Minnesota weather causes issues with dirty license plates, dirty camera lenses. Dash cameras would be easier to keep clean."
- "Provide an annual stipend for maintenance of cameras."
- "The grant reporting task is excessive. Each quarter we need to log into DPS system, record number of potential violations by county, report whether they were ticketed, record our estimated processing costs,

record law enforcement estimated costs. There is some redundancy in that the state patrol asks us to report all our violations already. We do not know if law enforcement issues citation as it is at their discretion. We have to reach out again to them to find out. We estimate costs because it's hard to pin that down."

- "Any NEW school bus purchased from the state cooperative purchasing contract should be given an amount such as a \$5,000 allotment for stop-arm camera systems. Otherwise, this expense will fall back onto districts. It is nearly impossible to align a new bus purchase to one of these grants. If not this example, there should be discussions on how to equip newly purchased buses with cameras. Transferring systems from an old unit to a new is really not practical."
- "I believe every school district in MN should have stop arm cameras on their buses. How do you not see a giant yellow bus with red flashing lights?"
- "All buses should automatically be equipped with this system."
- "Finding a way to fund ongoing expenses would be helpful. The operating costs are very expensive with the involved labor required to process."
- "I think this is an amazing project for school buses. The district would not have made this purchase on our own. Please keep this grant going so we can get all our school districts in MN to benefit from this great opportunity."
- "Due to the system we have selected and the nature of the Bloomington streets we have the ability to totally overload local law enforcement. If future allocations are approved, in Bloomington it will need to support law enforcement/judicial system. Also important is a plan to keep equipment maintained and up to date."
- "Speed up the process of reimbursement of claims."
- "We are looking at potentially needing to hire another individual in our office to view/manage the stop arm videos which is a budgetary item that we don't have planned. It's a difficult position as most public school districts don't have money sitting around waiting for a use."
- "It would be great if we could use the information already in the system when applying for future grants."
- "More education about what is expected within the program. Otherwise, very well done."

Appendix I - "Proof it's working"

9.28.23 Good morning.

The attached videos are from a stop arm violation that occurred this morning in our district. This was the closest call we've seen in our area. I'm sending it to you as proof that the stop arm grant program is working. The camera system allowed us to get a plate number as well as a description of the vehicle to give to law enforcement. Without the cameras, our driver had zero chance of getting a plate number in this situation.

Our bus driver thought the other vehicle was slowing down which is why she waved the student across. She feels horrible about it but I don't place the blame on her. She had vehicles behind her she was watching as well. With the oncoming vehicle being as far away as it was, I can't say that I would have done any differently than she did. Hindsight is always the best indicator as to what should have happened, but often times that comes too late.

I blurred out the students face so she can't be recognized so feel free to forward this to others if you'd like to.

Have a great day. Tim

Tim Dvorak Lead Mechanic New Prague Area Schools | 952.758.1480 NPAS: Proud Tradition, Promising Future

Appendix J - School bus safety resources



Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety Published by Nicole Lynn
October 19, 2022 · O

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Do you know when to stop for a school bus ??



Published by Nicole Lynn ♥ - October 17, 2022 - ♥ Help keep our students safe when traveling to and from school.



It's National School Bus Safety week. See the school bus stop arm? It's time to STOP . Racing past the arm puts young lives in jeopardy. Help keep our students safe.

Appendix J - School bus safety resources

School Bus Safety

Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety: https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/school-bus-safety/Pages/default.aspx

School bus safety resources

- School bus stop-arm safety video to help educate Minnesotans.
- 30-second stop arm PSA.

School bus safety link on the Minnesota State Patrol site. There are other resource links once you go to this page.

https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/msp/commercial-vehicles/Pages/school-bus-safety.aspx

DPS Blog Posts

- https://dps.mn.gov/blog/Pages/20220906-back-to-school.aspx
- https://dps.mn.gov/blog/Pages/20220721-school-bus-stop-arm-camera-grants.aspx

We thank you for your continued support in keeping our Minnesota school children safe!

Michael J. Hanson Director | Office of Traffic Safety Minnesota Department of Public Safety (651) 201-7061 Office | michael.hanson@state.mn.us Rahya Geisler School Bus Stop Arm Camera Coordinator (218) 830-1477 Office | rahya.geisler@state.mn.us