

CASE STUDY 1: Operational efficiencies

Working in partnership with West Midlands Police, TfWM has developed an innovative collaboration that has enabled an increase in the Static Automated Traffic Counter (SATC) coverage across the West Midlands. The SATCs help tackle crime, whilst providing 24/7 data into the Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC) to help understand the impacts of congestion. All whilst reducing the overall costs and maximising the value of the investment made.

An opportunity to work in partnership was identified to improve the utilisation of data from SATC deployed across the West Midlands Key Route Network. Data about the West Midlands highways used to be collected for 1 week at 700 locations, every 2 years. This data was then used to track trends, update forecasting models and to generate evidence for business cases and policy. It was recognised that the RTCC needed to move to 24/7 realtime data to help understand congestion occurrences and the impacts, however the access to this data could be at great cost.

The challenge faced by West Midlands Police was to derive greater efficiencies from existing ANPR deployment and to identify funding for further deployment. In line with Section 3.1.1 of the 2020 National ANPR Strategy “To maximise the benefits from the National ANPR Service as a cost-effective service to ensure consistent efficient and effective use of ANPR.”

Through the NR Live Lab, there was an opportunity to fund further deployment of SATC across the West Midlands. TfWM would receive the benefits of the millions of records captured daily, that were of little interest to the Police who track criminal activity by anomalous activities, allowing TfWM to analyse the normal patterns and trends of movement on the highway network.

There were 3 workstreams:

- Developing partnership arrangements, including privacy and ethics arrangements
- Fixed asset deployment
- Data analytics.

The NR Live Lab has funded the deployment of 103 additional SATC. These were deployed using the robust Police consultation processes that engages with local communities, faith groups, privacy rights campaigners and interested parties. Once fully deployed there will be 4.5 million records of anonymised motor vehicles data, including make, model and engine types that is pumped into the RTCC every day.

The data identifies slower journey times on the KRN, highlighted in the Operations Dashboard whilst building up trends across the region for daily, weekly, and monthly reports. All available via a web browser to share with the Local Authority partners and back to the Police. The ability to track speeding trends is now in development to provide back to the Police and to support the Regional Road Safety Strategy.



This collaboration work has provided these key benefits:

- Joint funding to provide a greater roll out of equipment that enables greater Police intelligence and greater TfWM transport intelligence. Reducing costs to the public purse.
- Reducing total amount of SATC deployed, reducing the concerns to the public about privacy with increasing numbers of SATC and also reducing the maintenance costs to the public sector.
- The improved communication, workflow and understanding of the different organisational priorities to enable further joint initiatives.
- NR Live Lab has funded new SATC at a cost of £750K, saving money for the Police. The data returned to TfWM would cost £75K per annum from a commercial provider. This is now costing £2K for data access and \$4800 for the technology per annum.