



Crown
Commercial
Service

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A SPECS average speed camera scheme (the first ever contract awarded through the GPS Traffic Management Technology framework) is delivering real benefits to the A614 in Nottinghamshire.

In January 2012, Nottinghamshire County Council ordered a SPECS3 average speed enforcement solution from Vysionics ITS for the A614, in order to address the serious collision and casualty history seen along a 21km section of road. Whilst Nottinghamshire had considerable experience in the effective use of SPECS cameras, this was the first time that the Government Procurement Service or GPS (now called Crown Commercial Services) Traffic Management Technology (TMT) framework was used to procure such a solution. Using the TMT framework made the tendering and evaluation procedure substantially simpler, faster and more cost effective for Nottinghamshire, allowing the road safety benefits to be delivered to users of the A614 in a shorter timescale.

The A614 is a former trunk road linking Nottingham with the A1. It is maintained to a high standard and features a wide, single carriageway with several central right turn features into local side roads. The route has many bends and hills with no footway for most of its length and is one of the busiest non-trunk roads in Nottinghamshire. Before the SPECS cameras were installed, the A614 had a significant casualty history with 289 people killed or injured in a five year period. Nottinghamshire County Council undertook a programme to address this unfortunate record with the support of Mike Penning (then the road safety minister), the local MP and senior county councillors.

The proposed solution was to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph (which took place in 2011) before installing SPECS3 average speed enforcement cameras in early 2012. Together, these two measures have had a beneficial effect on casualties and collisions, with early indications suggesting a significant reduction in the KSI rate and no fatalities since the cameras were first installed.

Vysionics SPECS cameras have proved themselves to be highly effective in reducing casualties and improving traffic flows, wherever they have been installed around the UK. The cameras are so effective because they create a visible deterrent that beneficially changes driver behaviour. Through a reduction in the number of speeding vehicles and a harmonisation of speed between all road users, the traffic flows more uniformly and

collisions occur less frequently. This is clearly shown in figure 1 which plots the 85thile vehicle speeds measured at a loop site on the A614. Data is shown during the following month long, 24/7 periods:

January 2012, when the speed limit was 50mph and before the cameras were installed.

May 2012, shortly after all of the camera columns were installed

January 2013, one year after the first data set

The chart clearly shows how the 85thile speed (the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles travel) has significantly changed, dropping by up to 15mph. This is particularly marked between 21:00 and 04:00, when traffic volumes are low and speed variability was considerable.

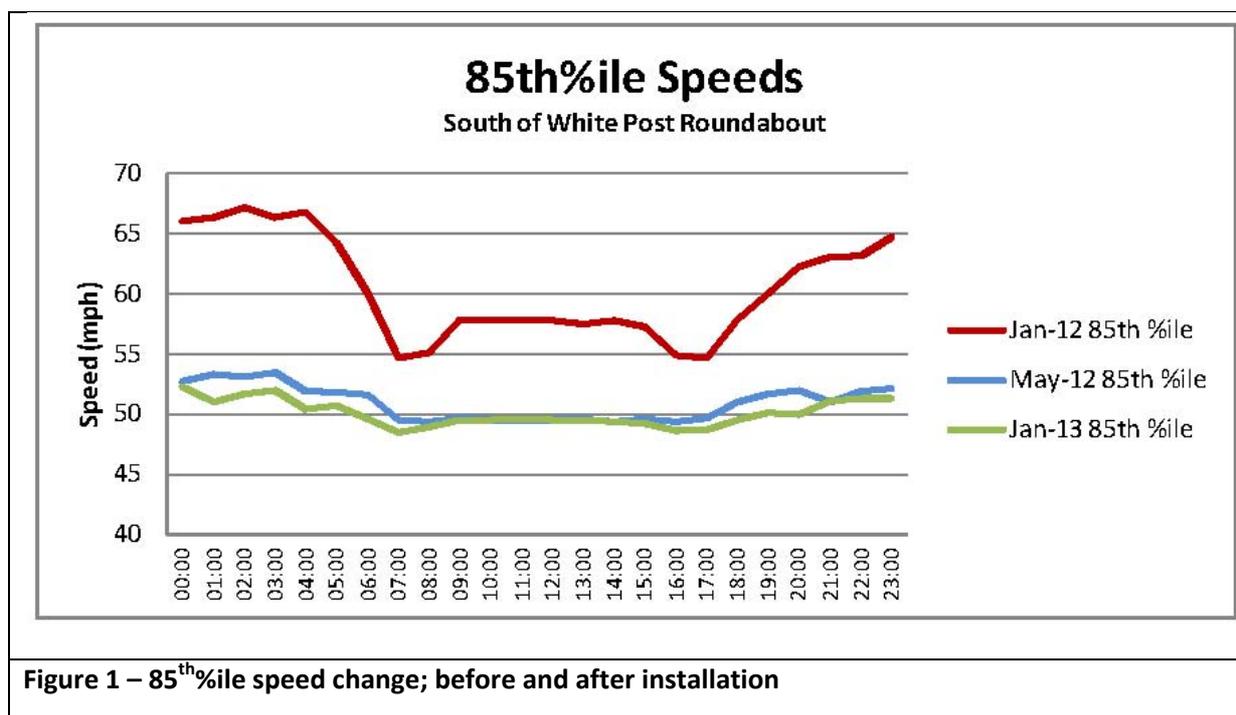


Figure 1 – 85thile speed change; before and after installation

Sonya Hurt is the Casualty Reduction Manager for Nottinghamshire County Council. Of the benefits of the SPECS approach, she said

“Our average speed installations are proving year on year to be a known and effective method of reducing casualties around the county. Where these cameras have been used elsewhere in Nottinghamshire, there has been an 80% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured”.

The A614 project was procured through Lot 4 of the Crown Commercial Services TMT framework. This approach reduces the complexity, cost and timescales associated with the purchase of traffic technology. Because all companies represented on the framework have been through a formal and rigorous pre-approval process, Local and National government agencies can bypass the formal OJEU process, thus saving time, effort and money. Of the TMT framework, Sonya commented

“This was the very first contract to be let through the Crown Commercial Services ‘Traffic Management Technology’ framework. Nottinghamshire County Council found the framework easy to use, reducing the timescale and complexity of the procurement process and enabling a more efficient delivery of the project.

NOTES

SPECS average speed enforcement cameras have been in operation from 2000 with more than 60 permanent sites and 250 temporary roadworks installations. Where SPECS has been installed as a casualty reduction measure, KSI reductions of >70% on average are seen along those routes.

Vysionics ITS have a track record in delivering innovative ANPR solutions, including a number of world firsts: ANPR reader (1979), ANPR security cordon (1996), HOTA average speed system (1999) and VCA bus lane system (2009).

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