

COVID-19 Compliance

Three ways your
video system can help
protect passengers
and employees

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Like many industries, the transportation sector has seen its fair share of challenges due to COVID-19. During the peak of the health crisis, thousands of people began working from home and children were participating in school online. That meant cars were off the roads, and routines were out the window.

Many transportation agencies were impacted by this decrease in ridership. As offices now reopen and school starts again, transit ridership is set to increase and transit video surveillance will be more important than ever in managing risk and keeping employees and passengers safe.

A host of new challenges exist for transportation agencies with the emergence of COVID-19, and having real-time visibility into your fleet and wayside assets will be incredibly valuable in the months ahead. By integrating surveillance video with the latest transportation technologies, agencies can reduce their risk from the virus and receive real-time alerts about potential compliance violations.

Here are three ways you can leverage your existing transit video system to help with health and compliance concerns in the wake of COVID-19:

1. Occupancy management

Limiting the number of people allowed on a bus or train at a certain time allows passengers to space out so they don't have to sit side-by-side.

Instead of asking the transit operator to count passengers manually, you can leverage your existing video system to gather real-time occupancy data. By installing a people counting analytics sensor that integrates with your video, you can automate occupancy counting and visualize real-time occupancy data locally (on the bus or train) or from a central location.

Here's how it works: Simply install the people counting sensors above the bus or train doors and then configure your vehicle's maximum occupancy. If your maximum threshold is 30 riders per vehicle, your system can be configured to display a green light inside the bus or train using a smart lighting system that integrates with your mobile network video recorder (NVR). This visual indicator lets the driver know that





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less than 30 people are on board. As you approach 30 passengers, a yellow light can be displayed and once you hit your maximum capacity, the light turns red, letting the driver know it's time to close the doors.

This type of solution can also be used to monitor multiple buses/trains from one central location. Occupancy data can be displayed on your central monitor and you can also get alerts via instant messaging and email when a bus or train has reached its maximum capacity.

2. Use data to inform sanitization frequency and route planning

When ridership decreased for transit authorities during the peak of COVID-19, many routes were cancelled or reduced and increased cleaning procedures were put in place to ensure that every vehicle was safe for riders. With a reliable video surveillance system that has occupancy management capabilities, you can be informed as to how many people are riding certain routes. If you're frequently exceeding occupation limits on certain routes at certain times of the day, you can use that data to inform your decision to add another bus to that route. You'll also know when to cancel routes completely if there isn't nearly enough demand from riders.

If your video solution is integrated with your fleet's GPS data, you can also track where vehicles are geographically, which is useful for coordinating new cleaning procedures. Instead of manually tracking route data, your staff can consult real-time GPS data and see a map of where each vehicle is on-route, ensuring they stop at the next depot for sanitization. This can save time, and make routine cleaning procedures more efficient.

3. Remote monitoring

Besides social distancing, there are other health and safety measures that must be taken into consideration in order to transport passengers safely. Some transit authorities have installed plexiglass barriers to protect drivers, while others are providing mask dispensers to encourage riders to help stop the spread of COVID-19. In some regions, masks are mandatory and contactless payment options have been implemented in order to emphasize low-touch behaviors. With a sophisticated mobile video solution, you can remotely monitor your fleet from a central location to ensure all of these health and safety procedures are being followed. Your mobile cameras will capture that contactless payment is working like it should, that passengers are properly spaced out on each vehicle and that the transit operator is safely positioned behind the plexiglass. You can also visually verify that cleaning is taking place at regular intervals.

While COVID-19 has forced new business practices for transit, this shouldn't necessarily mean purchasing an entirely new video solution, CAD/AVL system or other equipment. Your existing video surveillance solution can often deliver tremendous functionality — if you're partnered with the right provider. Having a flexible and adaptable video surveillance provider who can implement solutions based on your existing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) partners is key to managing and reducing the risk from COVID-19.

A reliable, standalone video surveillance solution or an integrated approach that can visualize not only ridership but the transactions and procedures taking place can help grow your transportation business and provide benefits far beyond COVID-19.