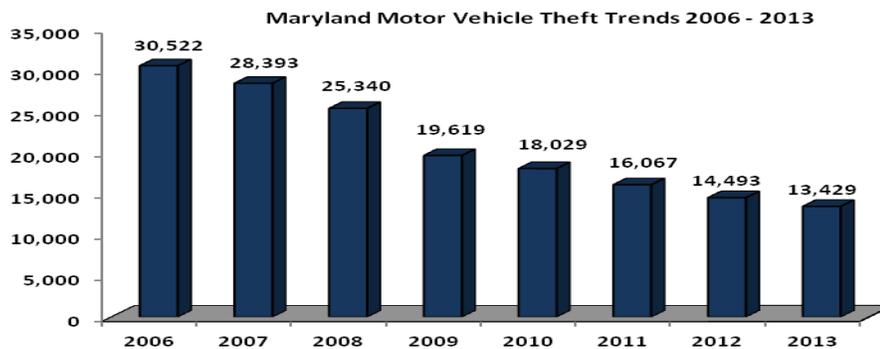




## Security Integration: License Plate Recognition

License Plate Recognition (LPR) systems are cameras that convert a picture of a vehicle's license plate into computer readable data that can be matched against stolen vehicles or wanted person's databases. As cars pass by the LPR, the camera snaps a picture, converts it to data and then compares it against the stolen vehicle file and other databases. When a match occurs, the system alerts a law enforcement officer so that prompt action can be taken.

For years, LPRs have been regarded as effective tools for deterring auto theft, recovering stolen vehicles, and apprehending car thieves. Although LPRs are often viewed as primarily a tool for stolen vehicle identification and enforcement, LPRs can help law enforcement agencies improve public safety in a variety of ways.



### Strategies for Success

In 2007, in response to an overwhelming number of requests for LPR technology from state and local law enforcement agencies, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHS) made it a priority to provide funding to law enforcement agencies that embrace this technology. In the last three and a half years, the State has directed \$2 million to state and local law enforcement for new LPRs adding 105 LPRs to the State's inventory. The purpose of LPR deployment is to:

- Enhance the State's Amber Alert and real-time response capability by deploying and networking LPRs across the state to more rapidly identify and locate vehicles related to potential child-abduction crimes;
- Alert law enforcement that a particular license plate on a "hot list"—e.g., a stolen vehicle or a wanted person—is in close proximity to an LPR to dramatically reduce the recovery time of stolen vehicles by strategically deploying LPRs in high-density auto-theft areas and assist in locating dangerous and wanted persons;
- Support Maryland's homeland security mission by protecting critical infrastructure from those individuals potentially intending to damage or disrupt the systems and locations that allow for travel and the free flow of commerce;
- Identify vehicles linked to drivers with expired licenses, expired tags, or unpaid fines.

*The state of Maryland has made great strides in reducing the numbers of motor vehicle thefts (MVTs) throughout its jurisdictions, including a 58.3% reduction in total MVTs over the last 7 years. The current motor vehicle theft rate in Maryland is at its lowest rate ever reported.*

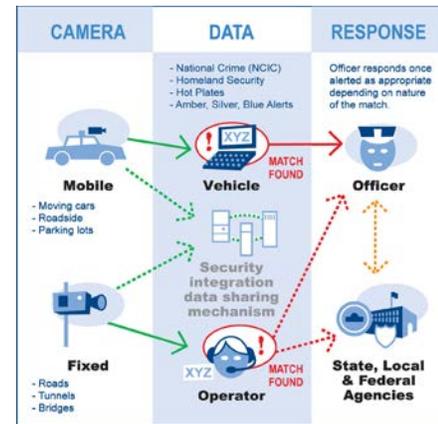
### Motor Vehicle Theft Trends 2006 – 2013

- Anne Arundel: -62.2%
- Baltimore City: -27.2%
- Baltimore County: -59.5%
- Cecil: -65.6%
- Charles: -59.6%
- Harford: -71.3%
- Howard: -65.6%
- Montgomery: -68.4%
- Prince George's: -68.3%
- St. Mary's: -41.0%
- Washington: -47.5%
- Wicomico: -61.5%
- **Statewide: -58.3%**

## Expanding License Plate Recognition in Maryland

The following actions that have been completed to make Maryland more safe and secure:

- 1. Appointed an Advisory Committee on LPRs.** An Advisory Committee was appointed which is comprised of state and local law enforcement professionals who developed a comprehensive privacy policy to ensure that data is being used appropriately by those with access to it.
- 2. Developed Unified Operating Procedures.** All state law enforcement agencies partnered to develop a single unified set of standard operating procedures (SOP) to allow all state LPRs to share information on Amber, Blue, or Silver alerts and any license plate numbers associated with individuals that present an imminent or specific threat to public safety.
- 3. Executed a Memorandum of Understanding.** GOCCP, in partnership with the Maryland State Police, coordinated the development of SOPs and executed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement agencies to allow as many LPRs as possible to share.
- 4. Promoted public confidence by ensuring that LPR information is used only for legitimate law enforcement purposes.** Law enforcement agencies drafted policies and regulations governing the collection, dissemination, and retention of the information, which ensured that the information was used only for official law enforcement purposes.
- 5. Coordinated Legal Policies and Protections.** GOCCP coordinated with the legal counsel of state agencies to ensure LPR information retention and sharing policies are consistent with applicable federal and state law.
- 6. Identified Additional Funding Sources.** The Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland State Police developed a plan to identify possible funding sources for the deployment and integration of LPRs in and around the Baltimore Washington International – Thurgood Marshall Airport, and at key entry and exit points on state highways leading into the major metropolitan areas including I-95, I-695, and I-495.



### Maryland's Three-Point Plan For License Plate Readers

<p><b>Add LPRs across the State to complement the LPRs already added in the past 5 years</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geo-strategically deploy LPRs to areas with high auto theft rates, known drug trafficking routes, high traffic density locations, and other critical infrastructure nodes including major transit hubs, the Port of Baltimore, and BWI Airport.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Create a robust information technology infrastructure to network state and local LPRs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronically link all existing and future LPRs utilized by state and local law enforcement to provide pivotal support during the critical incidents such as the abduction of a child and subsequent search for a suspect vehicle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop a single, easy-to-use database for state and local law enforcement to query specific LPR data supported by Maryland's fusion center.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a memorandum of understanding between state and local partner agencies so that verified LPR data can be securely accessed by all law enforcement agencies with a legitimate need for access.</li> <li>Develop partnerships between state and local agencies deploying LPR technology in order to share relevant information.</li> </ul>

To learn more about Maryland's License Plate Recognition initiative, please contact

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