



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

Groundbreaking technology set to reduce delays on Leicestershire's roads

Motorists in Leicestershire will face fewer delays after road incidents thanks to the purchase of state-of-the-art laser scanning technology with funding support by the Government, it can be revealed.

The Department of Transport has awarded Leicestershire Police Authority £79,765 towards the cost of 3D laser scanning equipment to record road collision scenes as part of its CLEAR initiative, which is aimed at reducing lengthy road closures and speeding up the time it takes police to clear the roads following an accident. The funding is part of a £2.7million funding package which currently has seen 26 police authorities across England benefit.

The technology can rapidly make a 3D image of an entire crash scene and store it for reference rather than the traditional process which saw investigators painstakingly examining the scene manually. The digital image taken by the scanners can be viewed on a computer screen remotely to allow investigators to take the necessary measurements of vehicle position and gather other important evidence needed for legal action. This means roads will only need to be closed for a minimal time, easing motorist frustrations and allowing them to resume their journey quicker.

Barrie Roper, chairman of Leicestershire Police Authority, said: "Leicestershire has a busy road infrastructure so any technology which can reduce accident investigation time and see traffic flow return to normal very quickly following a collision has to be welcomed.

"Road closures impact on businesses and consume vast amounts of police time and this equipment will help to make the accident investigation process a lot quicker, saving money for the economy.

"I am delighted the Department of Transport has accepted our bid for funding which will see the purchase of one scanning unit for use on the county's major roads."

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport Mike Penning said: "There is nothing more frustrating than being stuck in a traffic jam for hours on end. But even

worse than that is the shocking £1 billion cost of those lost hours for our economy. That is why we are determined to improve the clear-up of accidents so we can get our motorways re-opened as quickly as possible.

“Today's £2.7 million DfT funding award will see 3D laser scanners rolled out quickly where they are needed most. This will benefit drivers by reducing incident clear up times by 39 minutes on average.

“I would like to thank police forces for seizing this opportunity to purchase laser scanners and contributing funds towards the purchase. This clearly demonstrates how forces are committed to helping to keep traffic moving, in support of economic growth, as well as continuing to deliver their vital role in ensuring the safety and security of all road users. I would also like to thank the National Policing Improvement Agency for providing a contribution to the funding.”

In 2010 there were more than 18,000 full or partial motorway closures lasting a total of more than 20,000 hours.

Ends

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair 01283 821012 / 07702 541401