Butler Eagle 1-16-2025 Traffic Light Replacement at Rute 8 and Airport Road
License Plate Reader Cameras

Penn Township appreciates the Butler Eagle articles on the new traffic light and adds the following comments:

- The Penn Township Board of Supervisors approved the Secure Technical Solution's $11,492.00 proposal for the six License Plate Reader (LPR) reader cameras, internet modem, and related equipment. The traffic light contractor, M and B Services from Clarion, installed the LPR camera system equipment enclosure and the camera wiring under a separate contract. Richard Goldinger, the Butler County District Attorney, has offered to pay half of this installation cost.
- The Penn Township Board of Supervisors approved the PlateSmart Technologies' $16,194.00 proposal, which includes the three-year agreement for recording equipment, connection fees, and licenses for the six cameras.
- The Penn Township Police Offices currently have access to the Butler County-wide LPR camera system and have been using traffic information from other locations to facilitate investigations. The LPR cameras at the Airport Road location will provide an important link in this system.
- Penn Township does not have License Plate Reader cameras at the Route 8 and Dinnerbell Road intersection.
- Hopefully, the weather will moderate, allowing M and B Services to complete the new traffic light and PennDOT inspection, testing, and acceptance.
- Penn Township will provide an estimated time for the LPR camera equipment installation as soon as this information is available.

Penn Township approves plate reader cameras for new traffic signal
- William Pitts Eagle Staff Writer
- **January 16, 2025, Last Updated: January 16, 2025, 09:58 AM Crime & Courts**

Construction workers prepare the poles that will hold the new stoplights that will hang at the corner of Airport Road and Route 8 in Penn Township on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024. Township Supervisors recently accepted a proposal to install a license plate reader camera. Rob McGraw/Butler Eagle

PENN TWP — Township Supervisors accepted a proposal from PlateSmart Technologies to supply a license plate reader camera for the new traffic signal under construction at Route 8 and Airport Road.

The Township will enter into a three-year contract with PlateSmart to provide the cameras and associated plate-reading software at a cost of $16,194.

A license plate reader captures license plate information from passing cars, forwarding that information to police departments whenever necessary to aid them with investigations.

"The system will facilitate investigations into stolen property, accident reconstruction, and Amber Alerts," said Township Supervisor Samuel Ward. "They had a case of road rage last year that they were able to track using the cameras at Litman Road."

This would not be the first time that Penn Township has installed a license plate reader. One is already in place at Dinnerbell Road and Route 8, and Ward said the Township is glad to have it. "It's a very useful tool for the police officer," Ward said.

During the monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 14, Penn Township Police Sargent Cheryl Cranmer touted the benefits of the license plate reader.

However, Ward said that Penn Township will not use the license plate reader to catch people running red lights. By law, only first-class cities, or those with a population greater than 20,000, in Pennsylvania are allowed to use automated red light enforcement systems, otherwise known as red light cameras.

Penn Township has a population of 4,987 as of the 2020 census.

For now, only a limited number of municipalities in Pennsylvania are running red light cameras, with the vast majority of cameras located in Philadelphia. In September 2024, Pittsburgh's city council unanimously approved the use of red-light cameras.

"We're not permitted to have that kind of function. Most municipalities in Pennsylvania aren't," Ward said. "Pittsburgh's trying to use that, but most municipalities are not permitted to use that."

Ward says he doesn't have an estimated time of installation for the cameras yet.

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