



Slip effect and the fundamental flaw in Maryland speed traps

Cheetah calls on all Maryland and Missouri cities using the Optotraffic speed camera system to suspend their use pending independent scientific investigation.

A laser speed camera system, designed by Optotraffic and used by several cities in Maryland including Forest Heights, received new criticism today from Al Smith of Cheetah USA, the manufacturers of a GPS driver safety system called the Cheetah C50. (www.GPSdetector.com)

For a laser speed reading to be accurate, the laser itself must be stationary. The design of the Optotraffic speed camera system essentially involves laser beams being fired from a tall thin pole down at the side of the cars. It's been well documented, particularly by Will Foreman at Eastover Auto Supply in Oxon Hill, MD, that the Optotraffic laser sways in the slightest breeze. This demonstrable instability of the laser system creates what is known in the speed measurement industry as a panning error called the "slip effect." These panning errors cause faulty and inaccurate speed readings which are leading to thousands of Maryland drivers receiving tickets from a camera system that is of highly dubious accuracy.

Al Smith of Cheetah (www.GPSdetector.com) said, "These Optotraffic tickets are legally unsafe and scientifically unsound and must be stopped. We are calling on every city in Maryland, Missouri and anywhere else who uses this Optotraffic mobile speed camera system, to immediately do three things:

1. Suspend the use of all Optotraffic camera systems,
2. Instruct a thorough verification test of the system by independent laser experts specifically tasked to look for panning errors and the slip effect. (not rely on the testimony of the company's own so-called "experts")
3. Confirm they will be prepared to refund all drivers who have been falsely issued tickets as a result of being captured on Optotraffic cameras."

Smith explained, "We've seen problems exactly like this before in Britain, where the Slip Effect has been well documented. The Optotraffic speed camera is a bad design because it introduces physical conditions that the manufacturers of hand held police laser guns specifically state in their manuals must be avoided because they are known to create panning errors called the "slip effect." Essentially, Optotraffic have built a design error into their system that means the design itself is fundamentally flawed, no matter how good its individual components are."

Smith concluded, "We all hate to see injustices of this kind, but I think we can all accept that cities are not experts on physics and lasers so can be excused for making a legitimate mistake when a snake oil salesman comes along. However, once a mistake of this magnitude is pointed out (and backed up by science) if the cities fail to take immediate remedial steps, they not only compound their mistake but they also introduce an element of wilful negligence which demonstrates a failure in their duty of care to look after and represent the interests of their citizens."

ENDS



Notes to Editors

BBC investigations into panning errors and the “Slip Effect”:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/southwest/series7/speed-cameras.shtml>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N25ybu2y2aA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVdjZE2YhLE>

For more details on the specific situation in Maryland:

<http://www.eastoverauto.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eastover-Auto-Supply/110631815689704>

<http://www.skepticaljuror.com/1999/05/automating-wrongful-convictions.html>

About the Cheetah C50 camera locator

Measuring about half the size of a radar detector, the tiny Cheetah C50 cam-buster retails for only \$99.99 and is the first GPS speed and red light camera locator in the world to have been specifically designed for North American roads. It's simple to use and it's 100% legal in every state in USA and Canada because it uses GPS technology and the highly accurate Trinity database to provide drivers with safety reminder alerts to the dangerous locations, often identified by red light cameras or speed cameras. Police and government authorities approve the use of GPS camera locators, as they acknowledge both that the goal of photo enforcement is not to raise revenue and also that the driver safety benefits of location based safety reminders for high risk areas are undeniable.

The Cheetah C50 alerts to all the different types of camera (*speed cameras, red light cameras, speed-on-green cameras, point-to-point speed cameras and possible speed trap sites*), but it's a massive leap forward in the world of GPS camera detection because it is the only unit on the market which gives drivers 65 different voice alerts with more detailed, useful information on the exact location of the cameras. (other products typically only have 4 alerts) the default language is US English. Different language voice alerts are available including Spanish, UK English and German. The C50 can be used in 45 countries around the World including north America, Europe and Israel.

Cheetah's spoken voice alerts are important because they help drivers to instantly assess the importance of any safety alert, rather than just having to try to decipher the beeps that you find on other products. For example, if you're driving along a freeway, the C50 is capable of telling you whether the camera is on the freeway itself, on the exit ramp or a frontage road or if it's off to the side of the freeway on a nearby city or local street. For mobile speed trap alerts, the C50 is even able tell you if the trap is likely to be located in the construction zone or school zone ahead, in a tunnel, after the end of a tunnel, on an overpass or near a bridge ahead.

The Cheetah C50 is available now, direct from Cheetah, at www.GPSdetector.com for \$99.99. Membership packages for database updates cost \$29 for 3 years Gold Membership or \$49 for lifetime Platinum Membership.

FURTHER DETAILS:

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