

# Sheffield Urban Traffic Control



## THE CHALLENGE



Sheffield has a population of 513,234 and 2,097 miles of road.

The road network is constrained by the physical geography of the area and by historical transport priorities. Most junctions on the strategic network deal with unbalanced flows at peak periods. Such problems are often heightened by necessary road repairs. The

Urban Traffic Control (UTC) department faces many challenges to its ability to provide a satisfactory service.

The main challenges faced are:

- > Increasing numbers of sites which must be maintained within a fixed budget.
- > Requirements for the city to reduce the environmental effects of traffic.
- > The need to replace the existing UTC communications system which is based on obsolete technology.

## THE SOLUTION

The GSM mobile phone networks used by WCCTV offer national coverage which means that you can access live and recorded images from anywhere without the need for a fixed line infrastructure. The Wireless CCTV system has been designed with a view to redeployment and therefore offers flexibility enabling the end user to transfer the system quickly from location to location.

Sheffield required a GSM based mobile surveillance solution to make remote access to redeployable equipment simple and cost effective. In addition to GSM transmission, Sheffield UTC makes full use of the other transmission options that are offered by Wireless CCTV such as Wi-Fi and broadband. This allows them to carry out live monitoring at no additional cost.

This solution allows them to effectively address temporary issues such as:

- > Road works
- > Rush hour traffic
- > Seasonal changes (e.g school holidays and bank holidays)
- > Congestion black spots

The UTC department were experiencing various traffic problems on the roads in and around Sheffield. The cost of installing fixed line CCTV to monitor such problems was disproportionately expensive, given the temporary nature of the problems.

Sheffield UTC also noticed an increasing number of complaints being received from the general public about the state of the traffic on the roads. A solution was needed which made it simple for UTC operatives to be able to verify complaints received, by viewing the situation as it happened instead of in retrospect. Equally, Sheffield UTC required the flexibility to rapidly redeploy cameras to monitor traffic hotspots as swiftly as the problems themselves occurred.

*"WCCTV systems have helped us to monitor traffic, providing accurate information for analysis".*

Nigel McClements

Senior Urban Traffic Control Technician, Sheffield City Council

The UTC operatives also noticed countless man hours were spent on call, monitoring traffic problems, completing traffic surveys and even simply verifying the complaints of motorists. These time consuming activities meant that valuable resources were being spent on jobs which could be automated or simplified with the help of Wireless CCTV technology. Sheffield UTC first became aware of the benefits of Wireless CCTV in October 2003. Wireless CCTV initially provided Sheffield UTC with 2 Wireless Dome systems with full pan tilt and zoom capability. Since then, Sheffield UTC have developed a successful ongoing partnership with Wireless CCTV.



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## CUSTOMER BENEFITS

The benefits that Sheffield's UTC have seen since installing the Wireless CCTV systems are numerous. Most importantly the installation of WCCTV kit has proven to be very cost effective because it has decreased the amount of man hours that need to be spent on site visits, whether these are spent on incident reports or traffic counting.

*"The system is very flexible and ideal for temporary situations, especially where new traffic schemes impact on traffic flow. WCCTV's rapidly redeployable system makes it very cost effective"*

Nigel McClements  
Senior Urban Traffic Control Technician, Sheffield City Council

Sheffield UTC have also found that the Wireless CCTV systems have helped them with their strategic planning process, solved problems more quickly and increased public confidence in the department's ability to provide solutions to traffic problems.

The main benefits of the Wireless Dome system are:

- > Compact 'one box' solution with space saving camera mounting
- > Weather-proof housing
- > 360° field of vision
- > Remote control with full pan, tilt and zoom functionality
- > Remote access to live and recorded digital footage
- > Multiple transmission options, including GSM, Wi-Fi and Broadband



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