

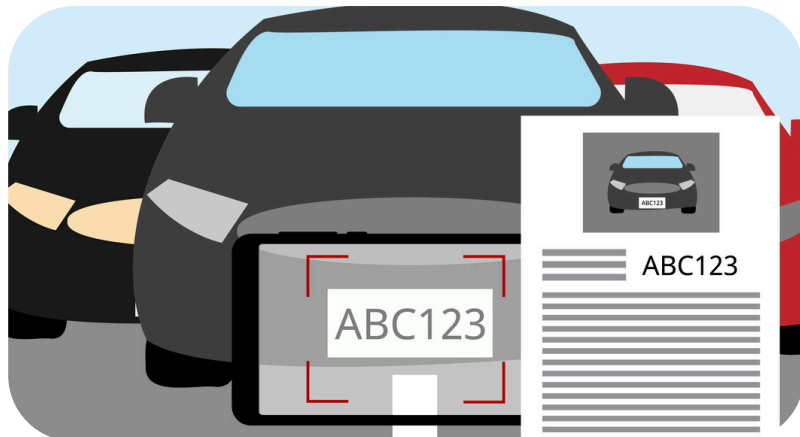


Violent Crime Reduction  
Small Rural Tribal

# SPOTLIGHT

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6 • September 2025

## License Plate Readers: Smarter Technology, Safer Streets



How can agencies leverage fixed and mobile License Plate Readers (LPRs)? How can LPRs integrate with other technology to supercharge public safety?

Over the last decade fixed LPRs have evolved into powerful systems that watch over roadways 24/7. LPRs function as a “virtual fence” surrounding communities, which are continuously alert and scanning. These fixed units are especially effective at flagging suspects tied to violent crime or stolen vehicles, even when officers aren’t patrolling the roadways.

Mobile LPRs also play a vital role in public safety. Mounted on police cruisers or integrated with in-car dash cameras, they reach areas without fixed coverage, support special operations, and offer budget-friendly flexibility.

One challenge to mobile LPRs is that they function only when patrol cars are on the street.

Many agencies opt to incorporate a hybrid approach:

- Fixed LPRs placed at key entry and exit points for constant monitoring
- Mobile LPRs providing adaptable coverage where they are needed most

This layered strategy boosts detection rates and helps officers and investigators solve crime.

LPRs are most effective when they are incorporated into a larger technology ecosystem. Integrating LPRs with other tools like surveillance cameras, digital evidence extraction tools, and gunshot detection systems can dramatically improve outcomes.



### LPR Success Story in Sikeston, Missouri

The Sikeston Department of Public Safety deployed gunshot detection technology that alerted the police to a shooting involving a 13-year-old victim. Witnesses described the suspect’s vehicle, and officers entered that information into their LPR system. They immediately learned that within minutes of the shooting, a nearby LPR camera captured an image of the car and license plate.

Armed with the plate number and photo, dispatch sent out an alert. Shortly after, the car was stopped in a neighboring town. Inside a 14-year-old shooter and a loaded 9mm handgun were found. That rapid response, powered by LPR data and gunshot detection, got a dangerous weapon and offender off the streets.

### JSS LPR Resources

★ Watch the webinar: Violent Crime Reduction Using LPRs [HERE](#)

★ Read the previous newsletter: LPRs to Reduce Violent Crime: A Strategic Approach [HERE](#)

### Want to Learn More?

Reach out to JSS or visit our [website](#) for resources, updates, and expert insights.



This project was supported by Award No. 15PBJA-23-GK-05525-RURA awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/ program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.