

CASE STUDY:

Lee County, Florida

Background

Lee County, Florida is located along the Gulf of Mexico and well known as a gateway to Southwest Florida. Lee County is widely known for its beautiful white sand beaches such as those in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel and Captiva Islands. In addition to the beaches, visitors to Lee County also enjoy various attractions such as the winter estates of Thomas Edison (Seminole Lodge) and Henry Ford (The Mangoes), the Mound Key Archaeological Site, as well as art galleries, cultural museums and historical sites. In addition to its booming tourism business, Lee County has a growing population bolstered by over a dozen hospitals, colleges, and universities.

With all of these factors, the Lee County DOT Traffic Division diligently works to manage traffic as efficiently as possible. Historically, Lee County had relied on in-ground inductive loops for vehicle detection. While the loops worked well, substantial attention and time was required to maintain functionality. For several years, the county has investigated alternative methods of vehicle detection in an effort to move away from the high maintenance in-ground loops.

Methods evaluated included wireless loops, span-mounted cameras and other potential replacements. The goal was to find a solution that offered lower maintenance costs, versatility, higher reliability and overall better functionality and performance.

Solution

Video detection appeared to be the solution, removing sensors from the roadway and placing cameras above ground, to eliminate maintenance. But, the City did not have positive results in the early search for a video detection solution. "Many options were evaluated prior to the GridSmart solution," said Efrain Cruz of Lee County. "We even tried using small video cameras mounted on spans. That was a good idea, but they just didn't work".



GridSmart was introduced to Lee County in the Spring of 2011, and the County immediately saw opportunity for the unique and distinctive single camera solution. The ease

of installation, reduction of equipment and installation costs coupled with GridSmart's reliable performance made a positive impression with Cruz and the Traffic Division.

Shortly after GridSmart was added to the Florida DOT Approved Products List (Cert. # 66013720037011), it was deployed at one of its busiest intersections in Lee County, and the benefits were quickly seen by all.

CUSTOMER PROFILE



LOCATION

Lee County is a gateway to Southwest Florida and home to some of the finest beaches in the world. Henry Ford and Thomas Edison chose Lee County for their winter estates.

BENEFITS

Of using a GridSmart System...

- « Single camera reduces costs for installation and maintenance
- « Reliable and accurate performance
- « Single ability to adapt detection zones to changing traffic patterns without any movement of camera



10545 Hardin Valley Road
Knoxville, Tennessee USA 37932
+1 865 482 2112 direct
+1 866 652 5347 toll free
+1 865 813 1170 fax

Results

The results seen in Lee County are remarkable. When considering the ongoing maintenance expense with loops, and the high initial purchase and install costs of traditional video, the County estimates that they are actually saving money with each GridSmart system deployed.

"In addition to the reduced equipment and installation costs, we're spending less time and money fixing loop problems and deploying resources on trouble calls. This aspect alone has made GridSmart a valuable part of Lee County's congestion solution," Cruz comments. "We have additional intersections that we will transition from traditional video detection over to GridSmart, and we look forward to seeing similar results".

Brian Chaisson of Gulf Industries, authorized GridSmart distributor for the County, comments, "We have installed numerous video detection systems and found Aldis' GridSmart to be the fastest and most intuitive system available. Cabinet hookup is fast with a minimal number of connections, and you have only one wire to the camera. The GridSmart software is very user-friendly, and has some truly innovative features such as the software pan-tilt-zoom and traffic data collection. Also, Aldis is always available with top-notch technical support to answer any questions. We highly recommend the GridSmart solution."

Contact Aldis today for a free consultation of how GridSmart can help you.

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*Efrain Cruz, Lee County DOT
Traffic Division*

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