



Safety Issue Overview

- General consensus of those in Pupil Transportation as well as American Pediatrics Society that the documented occurrence of stop-arm violations and the injuries that occur as a result are widely under-reported
 - There is no central agency responsible for tracking so there is nowhere to report
 - Fact is a school bus is a moving intersection creating safety hazards between 20-30 times per run in both the AM and the PM.

That Being Said...

- State wide studies done in Florida, Virginia, New York, and Illinois all indicate that the average school bus is illegally passed once every day. In CT that's potentially 7000 violations daily
- NHTSA has reported an average of 9 children under the age of 19 die each year
 - Including injuries: 22 children injured or killed each year loading and unloading the school bus
 - 6 Children killed in North Carolina between 2002 and 2009
 - February 2009, 12 year old hit in Dartmouth, MA
 - December 2009, a 5-year old was struck and killed in Cobb County, GA
 - December 2009, a 17-year old killed in Florida
 - November 2010 a 14-year old struck in Andover, MA
 - January 2011, a 7-year old boy was killed in Texas
- A child is 3 times more likely to die getting on or off a school bus than riding it.
- Fact is there are over 600,000 kids in the state of Connecticut getting on riding and getting off approximately 6,200 buses every day. Why are we taking that chance with 600,000 kids riding our buses every day
- Currently a stopping school bus tells drivers to "speed up" rather than "slow down." Need to create the soccer ball effect.

SmartBus Program Overview

- We are here as one of many providers of school bus monitoring systems and services
- We are here to present our system, as just one example of how a school bus monitoring system could work under the terms of this proposed legislation

How Our System Works:

- Utilize a series of cameras, mounted on the exterior of the school bus to stream live footage from the school bus to a central monitoring station
- Stop arm deployed, the attention of a live monitor is directed to that screen to identify any potential violations that may occur
- When a potential violation is witnessed, that footage is put into an evidence file specific to the state of _____ and forwarded to law enforcement
- Generally, the evidence file includes:
 - still images identifying the license plate of the vehicle
 - footage of the alleged violation
 - signed affidavit attesting to the monitors live witness of the event
- Up to the professional judgment of law enforcement to determine whether or not a violation occurred and a citation should be mailed.
- SmartBus covers the expense of mailing all violations
- Once the ticket is mailed it follows the same life cycle as any other police issued ticket --can be paid or contested by the owner of the vehicle

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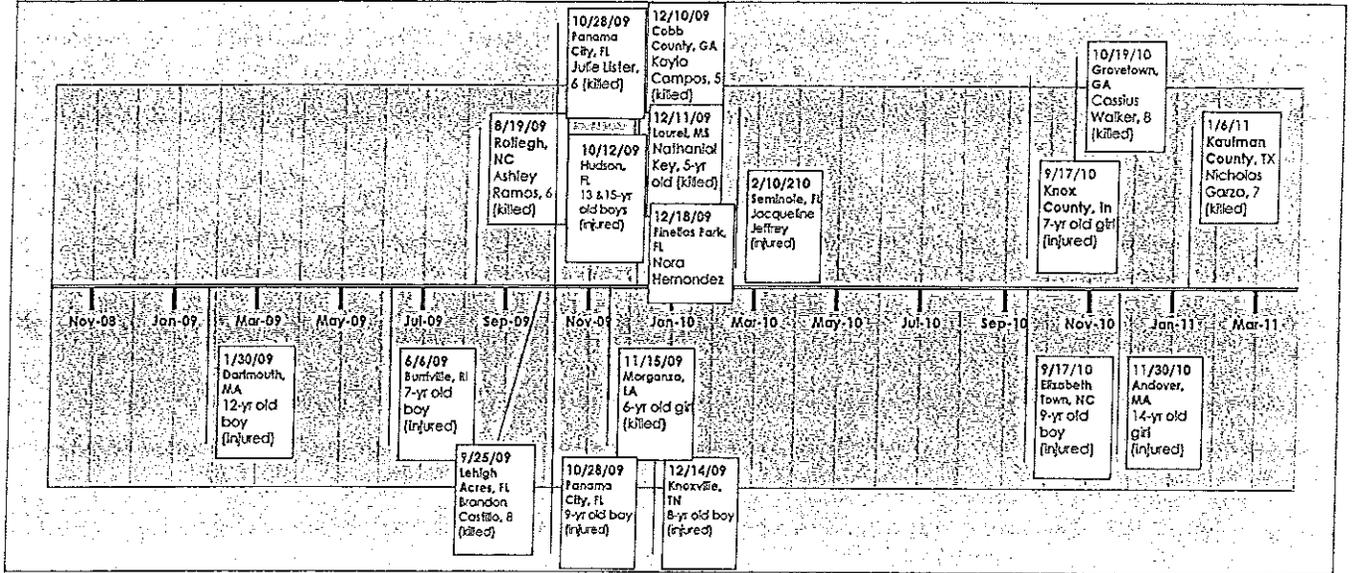
WHY Our System Works:

- Enforcement cost money. Right here in Connecticut even the one day program aimed at creating awareness called Operation Safe Stop (started in 1995) was eliminated because of budget cuts. Protecting our children from this safety issue takes time and money and resources are very thin these days. As a parent I would prefer to have a police officer behind every school bus for the morning and afternoon run but it isn't practical.
- Without enforcement there is little to no driver awareness
- Photo-enforcement acts as a force multiplier
- Benefit of developing our system on the heels of red-light cameras --able to incorporate the efficiencies without drawbacks (lack of discretion and ability to game the system)

Success in Rhode Island & Spreading Awareness:

- Consistent 1.2 ticket per day in Rhode Island
- Over 5,261 tickets issued in 2 years on 36 buses
 - Compared that number to the 128 tickets issued in the year prior to our involvement on 1400 buses (RI)
- Pilot bus in _New Canaan and New Britain___ yielding similar results:
 - 2 buses loaded
 - 90 active shifts (45 school days)
 - 107 violations (1.19 ticket per day average)
- Bus routes with cameras have seen a decrease in the occurrence of stop arm violations over the course of the school year
- More than 15 states nationwide are considering similar legislation --unfortunately many of those bills are in memory of children that fell victim to motorists illegally passing (Nathan's Law in Mississippi and Nicolas Adkins Law in North Carolina)

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12-year-old girl struck while getting off school bus

Libor Jany, Staff Writer

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DANBURY -- A 12-year-old girl suffered minor head injuries and a broken arm Tuesday when she was struck by a car as she got off a school bus, police said.

A police spokesman said the incident happened at 2:30 p.m. near the intersection of Padanaram Road and North Street.

The girl, whose name was not released by officials, was trying to cross two lanes of traffic when the driver hit her, said Capt. Thomas Wendel of the Danbury Police Department.

He said the bus was stopped and its warning signals were flashing at the time.

"Parents can instruct their children that even though the bus has its lights on, they still should be cautious, especially when crossing multiple lanes," Wendel warned.

According to the girl's grandfather, Ralph Nathanson, she was taken to Danbury Hospital, where she was treated for a head injury and a broken arm.

Nathanson is the apparatus supervisor for the Wilton Fire Department. He said his granddaughter briefly lost consciousness, then she got up "and staggered (back) to the school bus."

"It's an accident. Is a preventable accident? I truly believe it is," Nathanson said, adding that "it's a wake-up call" for both parents and drivers.

Police charged Amanda Simon, of New Jersey, with passing a stopped school bus. She was later released with a summons.

Simon was traveling south on Padanaram Road when she tried to pass the two vehicles stopped ahead of her, police said.

Apparently, she did not see the bus when she ran into the victim, Wendel said.

He said this is a persistent problem among drivers, many of whom didn't consider that "the reason (the car in front of you) is stopped is possibly for pedestrians and/or a school bus."