



# **Driving While Impaired Arrest Process Improvement – electronic solutions**

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**Workshop: Implementation & Use of E-  
Warrant Systems in Impaired Driving**

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# Background

- > Enforcement can be very efficient countermeasure.
- > DWI arrests can be onerous and time-consuming.
  - » Study based on data from 2,731 law enforcement officers found that making a DWI arrest had become so onerous that it was often frustrating, discouraging, and even intimidating to some officers.
- > New technologies, automation, and streamlined processes can improve efficiency and effectiveness of DWI law enforcement:
  - » Electronic citation technology;
  - » Electronic driver history checks;
  - » Vehicle identification systems.



# Objectives

- > Identify law enforcement agencies that have significantly improved their DWI arrest procedure. Describe resulting cost/time savings. Specifically:
  - » Determine which strategies law enforcement are using to reduce the cost/time of processing a DWI arrest;
  - » Identify which agencies have made improvements;
  - » Gather data to describe and quantify cost/time savings due to these improvements;
  - » Capture experiences of agencies who undertook these improvements; and,
  - » Prepare a report (Roadmap) that other agencies can use to adopt these strategies.



# Identifying sites

- > Six agencies were selected for further follow-up.
- > Aspects that were considered to select agencies:
  - » Type and size of agency (State, county, municipal, etc.);
  - » Urban versus rural;
  - » Type of strategy (electronic citation, other automation systems);
  - » Training opportunities available or not.
- > Data collected by telephone/email and two site visits (MN and UT) in 2015.



# Results

- > Conference calls:
  - » Austin Police Department DWI Enforcement Unit;
  - » Fresno Police Department eCitation;
  - » Louisiana Highway Safety Commission LADRIVING;
  - » Washington State Police Mobile Impaired Driving Unit.
  
- > Site visits:
  - » Minnesota Department of Public Safety eCharging;
  - » Utah Prosecution Council eWarrant and TOXE.
  
- > Two types of solutions: automation and training/use of dedicated personnel.

# Minnesota eCharging

- > eCharging is an electronic citation system designed to simplify DWI arrests through automation of several steps.
  - » Utilizes new technologies such as biometric signature pads for law enforcement to legally sign documents electronically and allowing for electronic transfer of information.
  - » Previously, officers spent 1-3 hours completing forms and records staff took 20 minutes to enter information.
  - » Officers can now complete arrest forms in 9 minutes and records staff can enter information in 4 minutes.

# Minnesota eCharging

- > Benefits of eCharging include:
  - » An automated process that can determine, on a case-by-case basis, which sanctions are applicable;
  - » Functionality that enables officers to accurately calculate the number of prior DWI offences;
  - » Built-in validations that eliminate errors (**√ versus X**);
  - » Electronic submissions to DVS that can result in immediate driver's license revocations;
  - » Improved tracking of DWI events from the beginning to disposition of cases; and,
  - » Integrated information sharing with toxicology labs.
- > 24-hour support line is available to officers who have questions about DWI arrest process.



# Utah eWarrant

- > This electronic system helps an officer obtain a warrant from a judge so that blood samples can be taken from suspects.
- > Features of eWarrant include:
  - » Auto-population options that reduce data inputting redundancies;
  - » A narrative 'probable cause box' that enables officers to provide a descriptive analysis; and,
  - » A real-time status field that notifies officers on whether their requests for a warrant has been reviewed by a judge.



# Utah eWarrant

- > A judge reviews a warrant and either approves or rejects it. The judge can also comment upon specific concerns regarding the request.
- > On-call judges usually respond within 5-10 minutes of a request.
- > If there is no response within 15 minutes of the request, officers are instructed to contact the judge.

# Utah TOXE

- > This program teaches officers how to properly prepare, package and send blood/urine samples to the Utah Forensic Toxicology Lab.
- > Funded by National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC), the course includes:
  - » A video on how to prepare sample evidence kits;
  - » A lecture on DWI laws regarding blood draws; and,
  - » A copy of video, kit components, **markers**, and contact information for attendees.
- > Previously, 18-23% of samples sent by officers to lab were rejected. Internal reviews show the rejection rate has fallen to 3.8%.



# Recommendations from agencies

- > Synopsis of recommendations include:
  - » Determine if there is available funding (e.g., federal);
  - » Seek early acceptance from frontline officers and use their input to create a sense of ownership;
  - » Encourage officers' feedback since it may improve solution's delivery and reduce barriers to its use;
  - » Communicate with all stakeholders through each stage;
  - » Accept that some agencies may not take part;
  - » Work with Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors who can provide information on legislative requirements;
  - » Implement the solution incrementally to manage workload and to avoid overwhelming the users;



# Recommendations from agencies

- > Synopsis of recommendations:
  - » Select one local agency as a pilot location before introducing it elsewhere;
  - » Use senior or retired officers in the pilot program and for subsequent communications;
  - » Explain the solution's capabilities and limitations in order to manage expectations;
  - » Consult with other agencies to see what steps they took and what lessons they learned; and,
  - » Standardize electronic arrest forms and integrate them with breath test and toxicology reports.
- > A detailed Roadmap was created to guide implementation.



# Key steps of the roadmap

- > Preparation and planning:
  - » Define problem, objective, goals, and secure funding;
  - » Conduct external audit and identify stakeholders.
- > Consultation with stakeholders:
  - » Appoint chairperson, contact stakeholders;
  - » Arrange first meeting, maintain communications.
- > Describing problem and identifying solution:
  - » Describe problem, identify potential solutions;
  - » Calculate cost, staffing, timing estimates.
- > Implementation of solution:
  - » Develop and conduct pilot program, report findings;
  - » Train program users, implement solution agency-wide.
- > Program evaluation:
  - » Design evaluation plan, collect data on user experiences;
  - » Monitor cost/time savings, make changes if needed.



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