

State of Minnesota



**Office of the State Auditor**

Julie Blaha  
State Auditor

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**Minnesota State Patrol  
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

ALPR AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

March 25, 2022

## **Description of the Office of the State Auditor**

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 100 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

**Audit Practice** – conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

**Government Information** – collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

**Legal/Special Investigations** – provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

**Pension** – monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for Minnesota's local public pension funds; and

**Tax Increment Financing** – promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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# **Minnesota State Patrol**

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ALPR Agreed-Upon Procedures

**Audit Practice Division**  
**Office of the State Auditor**  
**State of Minnesota**

# STATE OF MINNESOTA



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State Auditor

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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Colonel Matthew Langer  
Lieutenant Nathan Danley  
Minnesota State Patrol  
445 Minnesota Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5155

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Minnesota State Patrol, to confirm the Minnesota State Patrol's compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 13.824 and 626.8472 regarding Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). Specifically, the agreed-upon procedures used herein were designed to determine whether data currently in the State Patrol's records are classified properly; how the data are used; whether data are being destroyed as required by Minn. Stat. § 13.824; and to determine whether there is compliance with Minn. Stat. § 13.824, subd. 7. The Minnesota State Patrol's management is responsible for the State Patrol's compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 13.824 and 626.8472 regarding ALPRs.

The Minnesota State Patrol has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose regarding compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 13.824 and 626.8472 regarding ALPRs. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### 1. Procedure

Determine that a written policy governing ALPR use that incorporates the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 13.824 and the employee discipline standards for unauthorized access to data exists and is enforced.

### Findings

We obtained copies of the Minnesota State Patrol's License Plate Reader and Data Practices – Classification and Dissemination policies and compared them to the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 13.824. All the requirements of this statute are reflected in the State Patrol's policies, including references regarding unauthorized access or use of ALPR data and corresponding discipline, should a breach occur.

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2. Procedure

Determine that the data collected by ALPRs are limited in accordance with statutes.

Findings

The Minnesota State Patrol uses the PIPS Technology system. ALPRs have been in use since 2008, and the State Patrol operates 11 mobile ALPRs. A report was run from PIPS on January 25, 2022, for all of the license plate hit data currently retained by the State Patrol. There were two license plate hits within the previous two days. Both license plate hits were selected for testing. Minnesota Statutes, section 13.824, subdivision 2(a), limits the data collected by ALPRs to license plate numbers; date, time, and location data on vehicles; and pictures of license plates, vehicles, and areas surrounding the vehicles. We inspected the data from PIPS to confirm that only the data allowed was collected by the State Patrol. No exceptions were noted for the items inspected.

3. Procedure

Determine that the data collected by ALPRs are appropriately classified.

Findings

The Minnesota State Patrol's License Plate Reader and Data Practices – Classification and Dissemination policies recognize that ALPR data collected will be safeguarded and protected. The State Patrol informed us that it has not received any public requests for ALPR data.

We inspected the audit trail report for the period January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. During this period, no instances of exporting ALPR data were observed. We also inspected the data request log for the period January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021. There were four license plate searches by State Patrol staff during this period; all were reviewed and in compliance. No ALPR data was identified as being shared with outside agencies.

4. Procedure

Determine that a public log of use is maintained in accordance with statutes.

Findings

We inspected the log of use report maintained by the State Patrol for the period January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021, in conjunction with the audit trail report maintained by the State Patrol, and noted that all the data was able to be provided as required by Minn. Stat. § 13.824, subd. 5(a).

The Minnesota State Patrol has not owned or used a fixed stationary ALPR.

5. Procedure

Determine that, if used, a list of current and previous locations of fixed stationary ALPRs is maintained along with notification of such to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Findings

The Minnesota State Patrol has not owned or used a fixed stationary ALPR.

6. Procedure

Determine that the data collected by ALPRs is safeguarded, allowing role-based access for use with a legitimate, documented law enforcement purpose as authorized in writing.

Findings

A user access report was run from PIPS on January 25, 2022. The user access list was restricted to individuals within the Minnesota State Patrol based on their official roles.

The data request log for the period January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021, was inspected. During this period, there were four license plate searches of ALPR data performed by Minnesota State Patrol staff. All four license plate searches were confirmed to have a legitimate, documented law enforcement purpose for the access. No exceptions were noted.

Minnesota Statutes, section 13.824, subdivision 7(b), requires that law enforcement personnel have access to ALPR data only if authorized in writing by the chief of police, sheriff, or head of the law enforcement agency, or their designee, to obtain access for “a legitimate, specified and documented law enforcement purpose.” The Minnesota State Patrol’s License Plate Reader and Data Practices – Classification and Dissemination policies do not designate this responsibility to any one individual. However, based on observation, initial written authorization is obtained from the Director of Operations and Asset Management to gain access to the PIPS system.

7. Procedure

Determine that a data audit trail exists to document all access activity.

Findings

An audit trail report was run from PIPS on January 21, 2022, for all of the ALPR data actions in the system between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021. This audit trail report contained all activity of the ALPR data actions in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 13.824, subd. 7(c). No exceptions were noted.

8. Procedure

Determine that collected ALPR data is destroyed in accordance with statutes.

Findings

Minnesota Statutes, section 13.824, subdivision 3(a), requires collected ALPR data to be destroyed no later than 60 days from the date of collection, with specific exceptions. The Minnesota State Patrol has a two-day ALPR data retention policy. A report was run from PIPS on January 25, 2022, for all of the license plate hit data currently retained by the State Patrol. No exceptions to the data destruction requirements were noted.

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We were engaged by the Minnesota State Patrol to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to, and did not, conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Minnesota State Patrol's compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 13.824 and 626.8472 regarding ALPRs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Minnesota State Patrol and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Minnesota State Patrol and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than the specified party.

*/s/Julie Blaha*

JULIE BLAHA  
STATE AUDITOR

March 25, 2022

*/s/Dianne Syverson*

DIANNE SYVERSON, CPA  
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR