



ASK Transit

Inquiry on Video Storage and Retention Policies

Information compiled on May 4, 2010.

The Question: If you have digital recording equipment on your buses, how much storage do you have before the system over-writes itself? If you pull a portion of the video for whatever reason, what schedule did you establish for its retention?

Ben Franklin says ... We are working on this issue at this time. Our system writes over in about 3 days. We have 3 different brands of videos and each is a bit different. When we pull a piece of video we pull as short of piece as we can and at this time we have kept them on a separate hard drive and they are just there for the time being. We will keep them probably for years and years. If I remember I will send you our policy when we finish it.

C-Tran says... We have GE Interlogic Mobile View bus surveillance systems on our buses. The video recordings typically last 7 to 10 days. We pull video for all accidents and potential liability claims. We burn the recording to a DVD and retain the DVD's for open claims.

Everett Transit says... ET has 750 GB hard drives (8-camera systems with one audio pick-up). This provides about 3 weeks of storage for a bus that goes out 8 hours per day. More than enough to meet our needs. If we view a hard drive and save the data, we store it for a period of three years.

Grant Transit says... Approximately 7 days. We save indefinitely.

King County Metro says... Storage capacity depends on number of cameras on coach and the time coach is in service. In general;

40 ft coach with four or five cameras = 4-5 weeks'

60 ft coach with five or six cameras = 3-4 weeks

7 or 8 cameras 3 weeks

New systems will have 750 GB drives but more cameras so the general rule applies. When downloaded my retention schedule will be seven years unless told otherwise.

Pacific Transit says... We have about 12 days before it begins re-recording. We don't have any schedule for retention.

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Pierce Transit says...We do not have surveillance systems on our buses.

Pullman Transit says... Our hard drives are 500 GB and will go approximately 440 hours (40-11 hour days) before over writing. Video that is viewed is only retained if the reason for viewing can be confirmed. If the video is retained it will be kept for the length of the event it was retained for based on the public records retention schedule.

Spokane Transit says... we anticipate requiring 15 days on-board storage for our upcoming on-board camera system procurement (vendors seem to have on board DVR storage that ranges from 500 Gig to 2 Terabytes). The retention schedule will be dependent on the purpose pulled...for example if an issue is a customer complaint, it would extend (seven years) after resolution...a court case for something serious may take years to resolve and then it would be retained the seven years after. That is a very abbreviated description how we currently understand the requirement. We have not yet adopted any written policy.

Valley Transit says... We do have digital recording equipment on our buses. We have two types of systems. One system stores about 4 days of video, the other system stores about 8 days of video. Any video we pull for incidents, complaints, etc, we will save for 10 years.

Whatcom Transit says...Our 750 gig hard drive will hold approximately 1 month of video before being overwritten. We use 750 gig hard drives and record at a high frame rate using 8 cameras. Retention depends on the reason for pulling the video. If it is a public records request our public records our public records officer store the data on a secure network drive that only she and our safety and security officer has access too. This is the relevant statement from our DVR policy:

Public Records Request

Public Records requests will be handled by the Public Records Officer who will determine their validity and request, via email, that the video be downloaded. Before video data is released, it must be viewed by a WTA Operations Supervisor. A copy will be made on recordable media and will be sent out by the Public Records Officer. The Public Records Officer will maintain a copy with the request. The Safety and Security Officer will maintain a copy according to the Washington State records Retention Schedule.

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