



CASE STUDY
TAXI ENVIRONMENTS:

Winnipeg Taxicab Board

Honeywell

Taxi Environments: Winnipeg Taxicab Board

Video from the camera is recorded on a digital recorder securely installed elsewhere in the vehicle. In the event of a criminal incident, video images can be accessed by the Manitoba Taxicab Board or the police. The Taxicab Board and the Winnipeg Police Service have a protocol on when images from the digital recorder can be downloaded.

The occupation of taxi driver is considered very high-risk due to criminal victimization and the fact that drivers work alone.



Posted warning stickers inform passengers of the in-vehicle camera system and help improve driver safety by providing a deterrent against potential assailants.

The camera systems were introduced successfully to the industry because of the cooperative efforts of the Taxicab Board, dispatch companies, the Safety Committee, the Winnipeg Police Service and Advance Automotive - the installer. In the first two weeks that the FareView systems were in place, they captured the images of a vicious assault, a suspect for a serious criminal offence, and an attempted theft of a taxicab. Overall the taxicab industry is encouraged by the improvements in driver safety.

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Organization:

The Manitoba Taxicab Board is an independent quasi-judicial tribunal created under the authority of the Manitoba Taxicab Act. The Taxicab Board is responsible for regulating the operation of taxicabs in the City of Winnipeg.



Challenge:

Due to the nature of the occupation, taxicab drivers are frequently victims of robbery, physical assault and even murder. In many cases, incidents are not even reported to the police. However, with the most recent murder of Mr. Pritam Deol in July 2001, taxicab drivers voiced their concerns and requested that the Taxicab Board assist in improving driver safety. The Minister of Transportation and Government Services commissioned a study on how to improve taxicab driver safety.



The Taxicab Safety Issues Report released in October 2001 made several recommendations. One of the recommendations was to install mandatory in-vehicle cameras to reduce the number of assaults.



Solution:

In response, the Taxicab Board established an industry safety committee to explore ways to implement this recommendation.

The Taxicab Safety Committee reviewed the experience of other cities. The Committee also assessed various in-vehicle camera systems and met with the manufacturers. The Safety Committee recommended that **FareView™**, the digital mobile surveillance system for taxis, was most suitable for the Winnipeg industry. The Taxicab Board mandated that cameras be installed by July 1, 2002.

Today, FareView monitors the front and back seats in Winnipeg's 430 taxicabs. The camera within the system is equipped with InfraRed wide-angle illumination to ensure image clarity even at night.

