

Office of Traffic Safety

Mission

To prevent traffic deaths and serious injuries by changing human behavior in Minnesota through policy development and support, stakeholder engagement, program delivery, leadership, and research and evaluation.



Rahya Geisler
School Bus Camera Grant Coordinator
November 2023

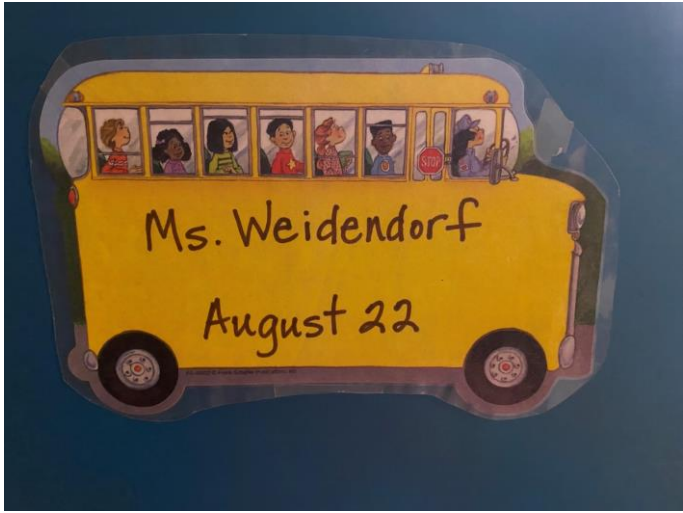
2022-2023 SBSC



School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant Project

Rahya Geisler – OTS/DOT
Lt. Brian Reu - MSP

2022-2023 SBSC



School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant



The **Purpose** of this grant is to help keep school children safe in our communities and to hold drivers accountable for their dangerous driving behaviors.

The **Goal** is to reduce the number of stop arm violations around the state to keep our children safe.

The **Outcomes** we are seeing already: the number of violations are on the **RISE**.



The **Outcomes** we hope to see: changing drivers dangerous driving behaviors and choices. The number of violations will **DECREASE** significantly in the coming years.



Hudson



<https://www.fox9.com/video/1205083>

Hudson



Hudson

What Hudson wanted to share is that no one wants an accident like this to happen.

No one wants to deal with the pain and trauma that comes from an accident like this.

What he said to me was...

“If that guy would have followed the law, and waited the few seconds longer, none of this would have happened. It could have been avoided so easily”

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School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant



- 2021 Legislative Session approximately \$14.7 Million appropriated to DPS-OTS to support a School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant Program
- 7 grant application phases complete as of today
- 170+ grants were awarded utilizing approximately \$16 million of the appropriated funds
- Approximately 57% of grantees are Schools – 43% Bus Companies (based off Phases 1-6)
- Over 7,000 buses will be equipped with camera systems when this grant project ends. This figure represents approximately 65% of the eligible bus fleet.

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Grant Requirements

- Work with LE to do reporting of violations

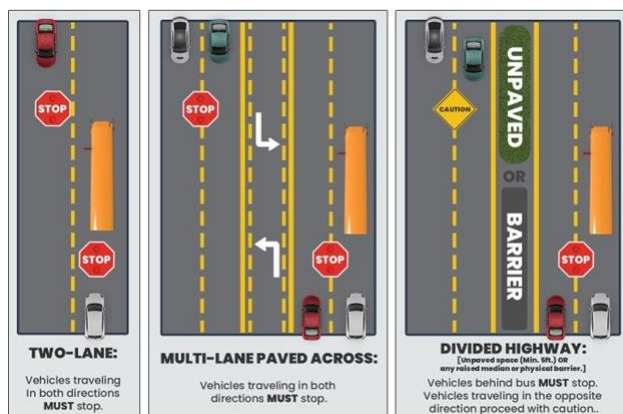
Connecting and partnering with Law Enforcement for ongoing reporting during and after the grant period is over

- Community Education and Awareness

Provide ongoing community awareness via media, social media, schools, driver trainings, etc. to grants in their communities

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Examples of graphics used in school newsletter – New Prague



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Example of news article – Duluth News Tribune

If you aren't stopping for these flashing lights... Then you'll be stopping for these flashing lights!



School Bus Stop Arm Camera Grant



New Prague Violation – September 28, 2023



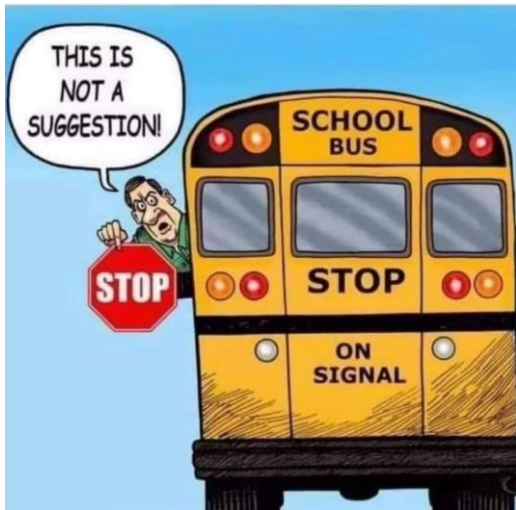
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West Hennepin Public Safety Department



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Law Enforcement Perspective

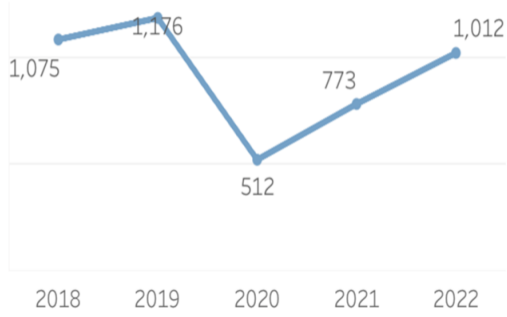


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School Bus Stop Arm Violations



Charges Filed by Year (click year to filter data, CTRL+click to multi-select)



Year	Number of School Bus Drivers	Number of Violations Observed in One Day
2022	4,359	1,003 23% of drivers
2019	2,376	625 26%
2018	2,802	583 20%
2017	3,659	700 19%
2016	2,823	529 20%
2015	3,570	613 17%

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SBSC Project Violations – 10/1/22 to 6/30/2023

- 6,322 Reported Violations by grantees
- 1,281 were reported to be citations
- MJB – Minnesota Judicial Branch reported 1,141 citations
- 72% of MN Counties are represented in the SBSC project data



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Horribly CLOSE!



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Future Plans – Stop Arm Camera Project

Programs for the future of the School Bus Stop Arm Camera Project:

- Equip the rest of the Pupil Buses in Minnesota
- Media Campaign around School Bus Safety
- Courts/ Prosecution funding – staff salaries to process citations
- Law Enforcement funding – staff salaries to process citations
- Drivers Ed – Education and Awareness Campaigns
- Community Awareness Campaigns



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Future Funding – October 2023

\$2 million – additional funding
End of 2023

More funding possible, contact:

Office of Traffic Safety

Contact: Kristen Oster
Kristen.oster@state.mn.us
651.201.7077



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THANK YOU



Thank you to all Law Enforcement and Bus Drivers!
Your dedication to keeping children safe is Commendable!



Rahya Geisler

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