



ATS WEB-ENABLED RADAR MESSAGE BOARDS ASSIST AT BOSTON MARATHON

Natick, Massachusetts, is a historic town located just 10 miles outside of Boston. Each year, Natick is home to miles 8 through 12 of the Boston Marathon, and spectators line the streets to watch as runners pass through.

For weeks before the event, the Natick Police Department prepares for the huge influx of visitors and the sharp increase in area traffic. For the past several years, the Department has deployed trailer-mounted SpeedAlert 24 radar speed displays from ATS to communicate event-related messages to the public. Because the portable signs and lightweight trailers are easy to move from location to location, they can be used for different purposes whenever and wherever they are needed.

SPEEDALERT 24 on ATS 5 Trailer



Before the event, the signs notify motorists and residents of impending event-related road closures. During the race, the signs are stationed along the route to direct runners to medical tents and emergency shelters should they be required. After the race, the signs can be repositioned to direct spectator traffic out of the area to minimize congestion. Sign messages are pre-programmed remotely using TraffiCloud so that officers do not have to drive to each sign to change messages, which would be problematic during such a busy, crowded event.



A SpeedAlert 24 on an ATS 5 Trailer stationed on a residential Natick street in response to a speeding complaint



A StatTrak counter classifier mounted on a pole



Portable Radar Speed Signs and Counter Classifiers Save Time

Because ATS signs are easy to deploy and redeploy as needed, they can be mounted temporarily on a pole, stand, trailer or vehicle hitch, then moved to a new location to calm traffic on another road. The Natick Police Department also employs **StatTrak off-road counter classifiers with speed measurement** from ATS because at as little as three pounds each, StatTrak is easy to install, take down and redeploy at each new location.

“We were using road tubes, but using StatTrak we avoid the mess of nailing tubes to the ground and then tearing them back up,” Officer Lacerna said. “It’s far easier to tie a StatTrak to a pole. We use four-foot zip ties to secure it to the pole, then we chain it with bike chain so that they don’t get stolen. I can put two StatTrak devices up in 30 minutes at two separate locations.”

The police rely on StatTrak’s speed measurement capability to run quick, accurate speed surveys that they can generate in seconds using the TraffiCloud remote traffic management system. Unlike speed trailers, which cannot be used at every location, StatTrak is installed on the side of the road, away from direct vehicle contact for safety and uninterrupted traffic flow. The speed surveys are used to determine if the department should invest more time and resources into a particular roadway, and since oftentimes the data proves there is no issue, the Natick police can focus on what they do best—protecting the people.

SpeedAlert Captures Data for Quick Speed Surveys

The Natick Police Department utilizes their four SpeedAlert 24 signs and two SpeedAlert 18 signs to run speed surveys they use to clear complaints. A sign is set up at the location in question to gather speed data—first in stealth mode so drivers are unaware they are being monitored, then in active mode to display driver speeds as they pass, and finally in stealth mode again to capture additional information. Speed Summary reports are generated in TraffiCloud, comparing before and after average speeds to measure the sign’s effect on traffic. The reports are kept on file where they can be shared with the state of Massachusetts as needed.

Another helpful report is the Enforcement Priorities report. Says Officer Scott Lacerna, “The enforcement reports are huge because they allow us to utilize our resources in a more effective manner. We are a department of 60, and I’m the only traffic officer—the radar message displays are great because they allow me to immediately identify where resources need to be.”

All Traffic Solutions 14201 Sullyfield Circle, Suite 300, Chantilly, VA 20151
Phone 866.366.6602 | sales@alltrafficsolutions.com | AllTrafficSolutions.com

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