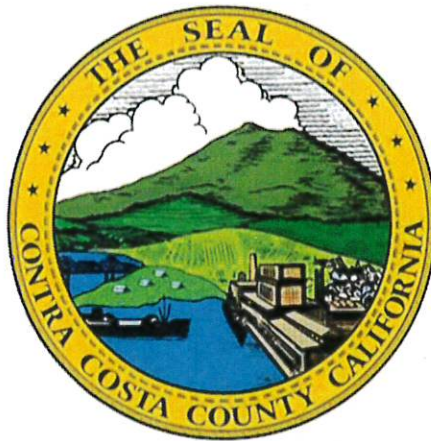# REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 REPORT

Freeway Security Network 2020/2021 Fiscal Report

Background

The Freeway Security Network (FSN) was spearheaded because of an increase in freeway shootings occurring in Contra Costa County. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and county law enforcement agencies recognized there was a need for a proactive, collaborative approach to ensure the safety of motorists on the county's freeway system. In 2016, the CHP, in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office (CCDA), and several Contra Costa County law enforcement agencies, formed the FSN Committee. The FSN Committee is comprised of the CCDA, Caltrans, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, the CHP Contra Costa Area, and the Chiefs of Police from the cities of Antioch, Hercules, Pinole, Pittsburg, Richmond, and San Pablo. The FSN operates on the Interstate 80 (I-80) corridor through the cities of Richmond, Pinole, San Pablo, and Hercules, as well as on State Route 4 (SR-4), through the cities of Pittsburg and Antioch. The FSN started with a three-year pilot project (July 1, 2018, thru June 30, 2021), and through a mutual agreement of all parties, the pilot was extended for one additional year. The current agreement is scheduled to end June 30, 2022.

Network Acquisition and Management

The California State Transportation Agency allocated $3.5 million, via Caltrans, to fund the purchase and installation of the FSN. Additional funds of $360,000 were allocated from the Caltrans budget to pay for the operational costs of the FSN through the July 2021 to June 2022 pilot program extension. The FSN project continues to be hosted and managed by the City of Pittsburg.

With the $3.86 million allocated to the FSN, the FSN Committee was able to fund the following:

- 24 Situational Awareness Cameras
- 165 ShotSpotter sensors
- 32 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)
- Wireless Backbone Infrastructure
- Associated command center hardware, software, and subscription services for the pilot time frame, with the funding sunsetting at the end of the 2021/2022 fiscal year

Freeway Security Network Project Development

The FSN project development occurred in three phases. The first phase of the project, which began in 2017, was the design and review of the network, and was completed in June of 2018. The design consisted of ShotSpotter Technology, ALPRs, and Situational Awareness Cameras. *Live Earth*, a Geospatial Visualization Management tool and component of the project, was included for multi-agency application of the technology.

Phase two included the installation of 24 Situational Awareness Cameras, complete with pan/tilt/zoom capabilities, which was completed in August 2019. Phase three, the Wireless Backbone, was completed in October 2019 which made the FSN was fully operational. At the point the FSN became fully operational, full data collection and reporting requirements were

initiated. This report is a summary of information from fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021 and a final report will be completed at the end of the pilot program in 2022.

Performance Results

The FSN has proven to be a valuable investigative tool for highway violence related crimes and other incidents occurring within the network. The FSN is utilized as an investigative tool for all freeway shooting investigations occurring within the network, as well as a tool used to identify vehicles wanted in connection with other criminal investigations by all partner law enforcement agencies.

CHP FSN Successes

- Between 2016 and 2019, the number of freeway shootings reported to CHP in Contra Costa County declined. For 2020 and the first half of 2021, an upward trend in freeway shootings has developed. The following chart represents all freeway shootings reported in Contra Costa County:

    - 2016 - 24
    - 2017 - 12
    - 2018 - 8
    - 2019 - 8
    - 2020 - 28
    - 2021 - 32 (Jan 1 to June 30)

- The CHP has used the FSN to assist with the investigation of 35 freeway shootings for fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021, compared with the use of the FSN to assist in 19 freeway shooting investigations for FY 2019/2020.

- CHP was notified of a freeway shooting that occurred on SR-4. Investigators located video footage from the shooting through the FSN and identified several vehicles of interest. Investigators were able to determine the license plate of the suspect vehicle and thereby the identity of the suspect.

- Some components of the FSN system have proven to be beneficial in ways not initially part of the FSN concept.

    - The FSN has been used to assist in the identification of suspect vehicles involved in pursuits, to aid further investigation and obtaining warrants.
    - The FSN has been used to provide leads for vehicles involved in hit and run crash investigations.
    - The Contra Costa Area CHP office conducted 27 stolen vehicle arrests with information initiated by the FSN for this fiscal year.

Allied Agency FSN Successes

- Freeway Security Network cameras captured an attempted murder suspect's vehicle minutes after he had shot a victim several times in a city jurisdiction. Freeway

Security Network cameras were directly responsible in identifying the suspect's vehicle, and ultimately led to the suspect's arrest in a neighboring city. Detectives were able to testify in the use of the FSN and were able to secure an attempted murder conviction.

- Detectives investigated a homicide at a local convenience store during which two young victims were murdered. Based on surveillance from the scene, and witness statements, detectives were able to use the FSN cameras to locate a license plate for the suspect vehicle. Leads were developed, and the suspect vehicle was tracked to San Francisco where it was recovered. Evidence located inside the vehicle lead to the arrest and prosecution of three suspects for murder with special circumstances.

- The Pittsburg and Concord Police Departments experienced a series of 16 drive-by shootings and multiple carjackings, during which a murder and numerous attempted murders occurred. Detectives developed leads from witnesses, surveillance video, and shell casings recovered from the scene. Several vehicles were used by the nine suspects, all of which were all identified using the FSN cameras. With this information, the suspects, their ingress/egress methods, and their residences were identified. Detectives served multiple warrants, resulting in four firearms being recovered, and all nine suspects were arrested. Several of the suspects are currently in custody awaiting trial.

- Requests for information captured by the FSN, specifically ALPR information, has been requested of the network administrator by over 250 law enforcement agencies nationwide. These requests are made specifically to aid in open criminal investigations.

Future Benefit of the FSN

Future funding for operational costs, including maintenance and licensing fees, will need to be obtained by the FSN Committee. The FSN Committee continues to seek funding from sources including applicable grants and from various local city and county sources to continue the operation of the FSN. The FSN Committee has received comments from county and state elected officials in support of the continued operation of the FSN. If funding is identified, all existing benefits outlined in this report could be expected for all partnering law enforcement agencies.