Average Speed Cameras and improved driver behaviour

The first Average Speed Camera (ASC) system in the UK was installed in 2005 on the A77, which runs from Kilmarnock through Girvan to Stranraer. This system is currently being updated with the latest in ASC technology SPECS3 system*. In Scotland, ASC systems have also been installed on the A9 between Perth and Inverness and on the A90 between Dundee and Stonehaven.

Transport Scotland have produced statistics which show dramatic improvement in driver behaviour and significant reduction in accidents in which people were killed or seriously injured, after the introduction of these 3 ASC systems.

On the A90, statistics show that prior to the introduction of ASC on the A90, 3 out of 5 drivers were speeding and of them, 1 in 5 were exceeding the speed limit by 10mph or more. After the introduction, only 1 in 2500 motorists are now exceeding the limit excessively. The ASCs have encouraged significant improvement in that 99 in every 100 drivers are keeping to 70mph or lower. Typically, the A90 handles 23,000 vehicles every day so 9 or 10 drivers are being clocked each day.

The A9 between Perth and Inverness also handles a similar amount of traffic overall with a slightly higher density between Perth and Dunblane. Transport Scotland data shows that there has been a 31% reduction in accidents where people were killed or seriously injured (KSI). Regrettably, because the road is not yet fully duelled, a great number of accidents still involves overtaking and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) over 7.5te. HGVs account for about 7% of the traffic on the A9 but are involved in nearly 25% of the accidents.

The A77 in comparison, which is a dual carriageway, has seen a 74% in KSI accidents since the baseline date obtained prior to the introduction of ASC in 2005. This road handles about 65,000 vehicles daily.

*SPECS3 Technology

If you want to know more about the latest ASC, the A77 road information has a good link:

www.a77road.info/files/2016-03/A77-vector-average-speed-system.pdf