

Police Services

Fleet health and fleet management



Police fleet management: an overview



Today's wealth of data offers many opportunities for police organizations to maximize efficiency, transparency and accountability. While body cams have become common for many policing organizations to meet this need, fleet management solutions continue to be an untapped data resource.

In fact, about 20% of government fleets don't use a fleet management solution and only 10% use a solution on all of their vehicles, [according to a report from Government Fleet](#).

The benefits of a fleet management solution extend beyond the police cruiser into every aspect of an officer's day-to-day professional life.



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CHAPTER 01

Data-driven environment

While policing efforts must focus on protecting the public, officers must have safe, reliable equipment to be effective. Fleet management solutions can provide predictive collision risk metrics, collision detection capabilities, and – if an incident occurs – collision reconstruction.

Operationally, fleet management solutions can help improve situational awareness and agility. Automated alerts triggered by emergency vehicle lights and sirens could provide more direct and expedient response to critical situations. This also goes for general patrol displacement. Underserved areas can be identified, and officers and their vehicles redistributed to focus their efforts on these areas. Fleet data can give you a full picture of both the real-time and historic realities of your jurisdiction.



DID YOU KNOW?



Geotab's Maintenance Center makes it easy to study all of your police fleet's maintenance metrics in a single location, offering **insights on engine performance, oil change schedules, battery health and more.** Make smarter, more cost-effective maintenance decisions and keep your vehicles on the road with data-driven servicing.

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Police vehicles are more than ways for officers to get around


They are mobile offices and asset lockers. Fleet management solutions like Geotab’s allow for equipment integrations, giving fleet managers and superiors insights into how and when gun racks, sirens and even seatbelts are used. This level of detail not only improves officer safety and efficiency but also helps keep the public safer.

Finally, fleet management solutions are still critical in the fundamental aspects of vehicle operations – maintenance. Strong predictive maintenance programs and fuel-usage tracking can maximize vehicle uptime, and more importantly, save taxpayer dollars. Data is key to efficiency at all levels.

Impactful Insight

Robert Martinez, a 36-year veteran of the New York Police Department (NYPD), oversaw the largest police fleet in the country. Consisting of 10,000 vehicles, the **fleet was transformed by shifting from a pencil-and-paper system to a sophisticated fleet management solution**. This enabled the NYPD’s operations to track vehicle speeds, locations and maintenance needs in near real-time.





4,000 TO 6,000 MILES

The amount the NYPD has been able to extend planned maintenance intervals on electric and hybrid vehicles through data from actual mileage in its fuel management system.

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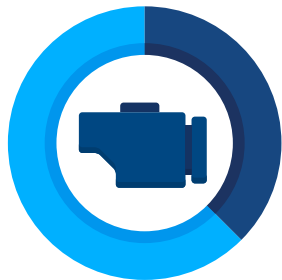
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CHAPTER 02

Police fleet management:

Saving taxpayer dollars while protecting the public

Efficiency is the byword in today’s public services environment. For police agencies, there is understandable tension between reducing costs while serving the public interest. Fleet management solutions can help balance cost savings without the need to curtail policing operations. Specifically, fleet management solutions can help departments save in three key areas.



Improved fuel efficiency



Reduced maintenance costs



Lower collision risks

Additionally, fleet management solutions can also help departments optimize their operations and maximize budget efficiency in more advanced ways like these:

- Conducting maintenance based on vehicle usage, not set service schedules, which becomes especially important when certain police vehicles are used drastically more than others.
- Remote diagnostics and triaging, to determine if a police vehicle can safely be driven to the garage versus whether it needs to be pulled off the road immediately.
- Deeper vehicle health insights that enable fleet managers to stay notified of check engine lights and other mechanical warnings, independent of an officer’s responsibility to report them.
- Balancing fleet utilization, so all vehicles are used equally versus “favorite” vehicles being chosen more heavily in the rotation.
- Customizable clearance levels that align with departmental security and privacy policies, so the right personnel have the relevant data they need to make smarter decisions.



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Amid all of these benefits, monitoring fuel efficiency is perhaps one of the biggest initial advantages of having a fleet management solution.

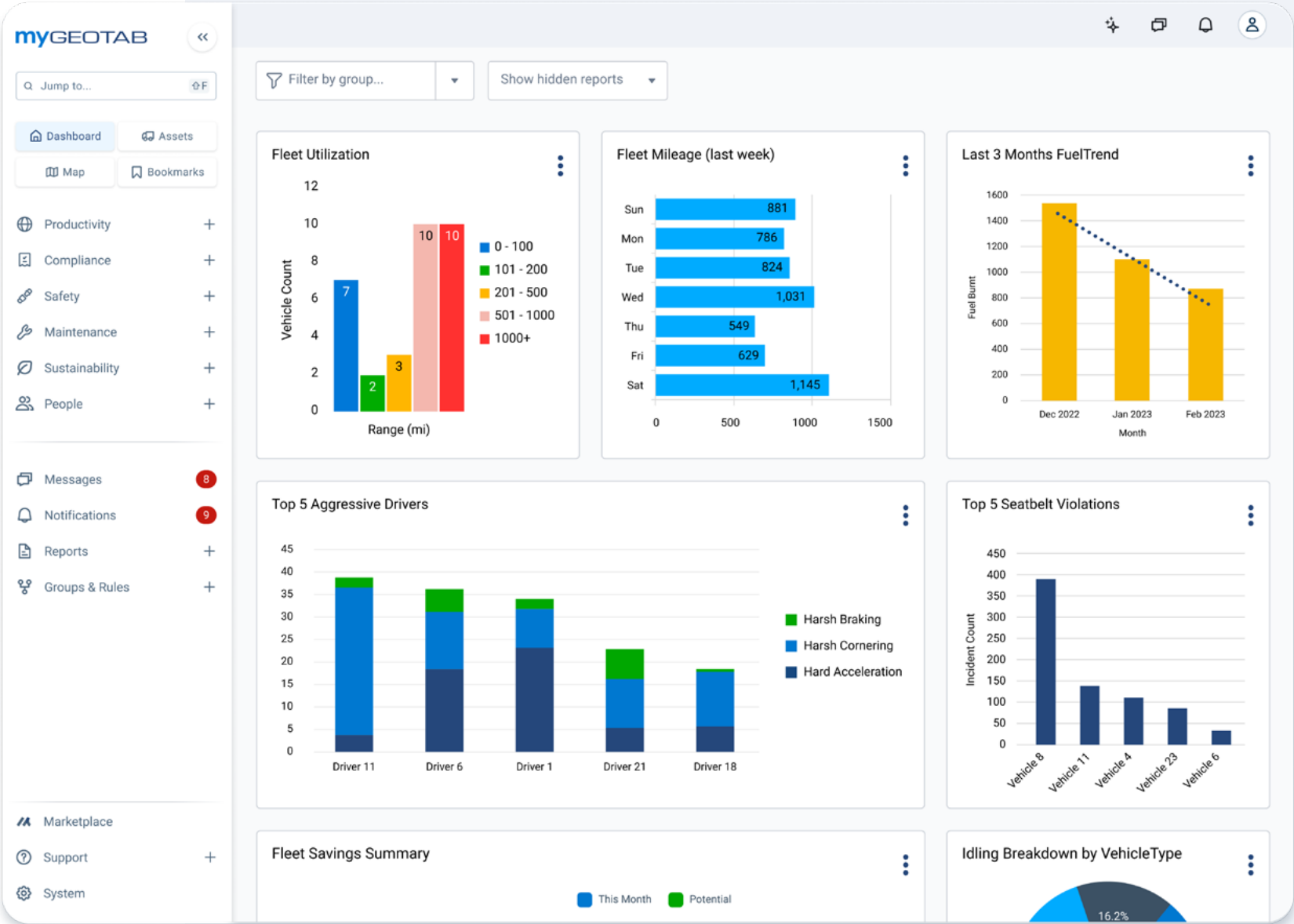
A **U.S. Department of Energy** study found that a **police cruiser that was idle 60% of the time used 21% of its total fuel** while parked and idling. With a gallon of regular gasoline **costing an average of \$3.16** (as of February 2025), cutting fuel waste through idling has the potential for quick, sustained savings.


Fleet management solutions can give insights on idling, how often a cruiser is being refueled, the way in which it is being driven and if it is being driven outside of its designated patrol area regularly.

Every vehicle needs regular maintenance, and, as outlined above, predictive maintenance programs can improve uptime and save money. But data can also point to issues related to maintenance — particularly if costs are out of line with the predictions. The **State of Utah’s police** fleet found that campus vehicles needed frequent tire maintenance using Geotab’s fleet management tools. A deeper dive into the data revealed that the excessive wear and tear was related to how the vehicles were being driven, which led to improved driver training.

Fuel waste may also point to larger safety-related issues. As part of its fleet management solution implementation, the State of Utah Police fleet additionally monitored pursuit data with Geotab. The result of one excessive event — a cruiser traveling at 144 mph — informed new policies related to pursuits and speeding. And, while having stricter driving parameters will save on fuel costs, it will also likely be critical in helping to protect both officers’ lives and the lives of the public.

With all the up-front costs related to maintenance and fuel that a fleet management solution can help control, the biggest cost savings that a solution can deliver is one any fleet manager never wants to incur in the first place: the cost of a collision.





DID YOU KNOW?

Geotab goes beyond simply providing driver scorecard data alone, offering AI-enabled Collision Risk insights that help you gauge your fleet’s likelihood of experiencing a collision over its next 100,000 miles or kilometers.

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On average, according to [National Highway Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), the **cost of a police-related collision is \$13,300 to \$1.1 million**, with that number **jumping to between \$37,000 to \$5.5 million if a fatality is involved**. These costs typically come directly out of a municipal or police budget, which could significantly affect both the department’s finances directly – and perhaps just as important – public perception.

Monitoring speed and driver behavior individually and across time can provide the kind of insights needed to either avoid collisions altogether or minimize their effects. For example, the State of Utah Police fleet also implemented a requirement for officers to wear their seatbelts in all cases except during pursuit scenarios under five miles per hour. This policy was instituted after the data showed that seatbelt use did not impede officers’ exiting of their vehicles during emergency calls, thus improving departmental safety.

Longer term, data from a fleet management solution can help departments save money by providing them with key insights for right-sizing their fleets. The State of Utah Police fleet relied on fleet utilization reporting to capture real-time data related to odometer mileage, engine hours, on-duty versus off-duty use and time spent in pursuit mode to determine if a vehicle was needed. **The result:** 60 vehicles were cut initially, meaning 60 vehicles’ worth of maintenance, fuel, insurance and potential collision costs saved, all without affecting the operations of the organization.



1,423 gallons

The average number of gallons a police vehicle uses yearly; three times that of an ordinary civilian car.



Data-driven efficiencies enhance both operational effectiveness and officer safety.

Robert Martinez, former Deputy Commissioner of the NYPD

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CHAPTER 03

Police fleet management:

Choosing the right solution for you

There are numerous fleet management solutions today. And while most of them provide the basic information most fleets need, those like Geotab’s provide police fleets with deeper insights and the rich integration capabilities they need to get a full picture of the department’s near real-time operations.

Among the must-have features that a police fleet management solution should have include:

- ☐ GPS data on real-time vehicle locations.
- ☐ Detailed vehicle and engine data that improves shared motorpool management by enabling proactive maintenance, optimized resource allocation and cost-effective vehicle utilization.
- ☐ Integration options with other public safety technologies like spatial mapping software, cabin temperature monitoring solutions, gun racks or lights and sirens.
- ☐ Predictive maintenance features, including engine fault codes, maintenance scheduling and reminders and fuel monitoring.
- ☐ Safety features, including predictive collision risk metrics, collision detection and reconstruction capabilities.
- ☐ Driver behavior monitoring, such as tracking seatbelt usage, harsh driving habits when not in pursuit and in-cabin activities with [video telematics](#) options.

There may be other features you’ll need as well. This is where a close consultation with the fleet management software provider’s team comes in. They should listen to your needs, remain right by your side through each fleet challenge your department faces and eagerly help you find effective, data-driven solutions to the problems facing your police fleet.



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CHAPTER 04

Asking the right questions

Must-ask questions when looking for a police fleet management solution:

- Can this solution replace or integrate solutions we are already using and may want to continue to use?
- What kind of integrations can this solution provide? Can it be used with systems and technologies our officers rely on or use already?
- Can this solution deliver the reports we need or want to help make tactical and strategic decisions?
- Can reports be customized to include only the data we want and in a format that my staff and I find most useful?
- Will the solution and its reporting clearly demonstrate that we are using taxpayer funds to keep the community safer?
- What kind of support does the fleet management solution vendor provide before, during and after implementation?
- Is it possible to pilot the solution?

In ideal circumstances, it’s always a good idea to pilot the telematics solution or solutions finalists for several weeks to several months before making a decision. There are several practical reasons for this. If you choose the wrong solution for your fleet operation, there are a number of consequences that can occur. First, is the waste of taxpayer money to first implement and then switch to another solution. Second, your officers may struggle with using the solution and may neglect it during day-to-day operations after its implementation.

A pilot can help you determine if the solution and the provider are a right fit. If the solution is introduced to supervisors first during the pilot and they can help convey its value for smarter, safer policing to their officers, the chances of widespread acceptance and successful implementation may be much higher.

Geotab prides itself on having expert account executives who listen and will work with you every step of the way to help tailor the solution to your operation’s current and future needs.



Geotab gives us a clear picture to better understand cost-saving measures, and make smart decisions based on what our needs are.

Dan Black, Fleet Manager, Department of Administrative Services, Division of Fleet Operations for the State of Utah

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Police fleet management:

Real-world use cases

Every police fleet is unique. The types of vehicles, the communities they serve and the geographical limits of their jurisdictions are just a few of the variables that contribute to how a fleet is managed. They also influence the specific reasons why a fleet may need a fleet management solution.

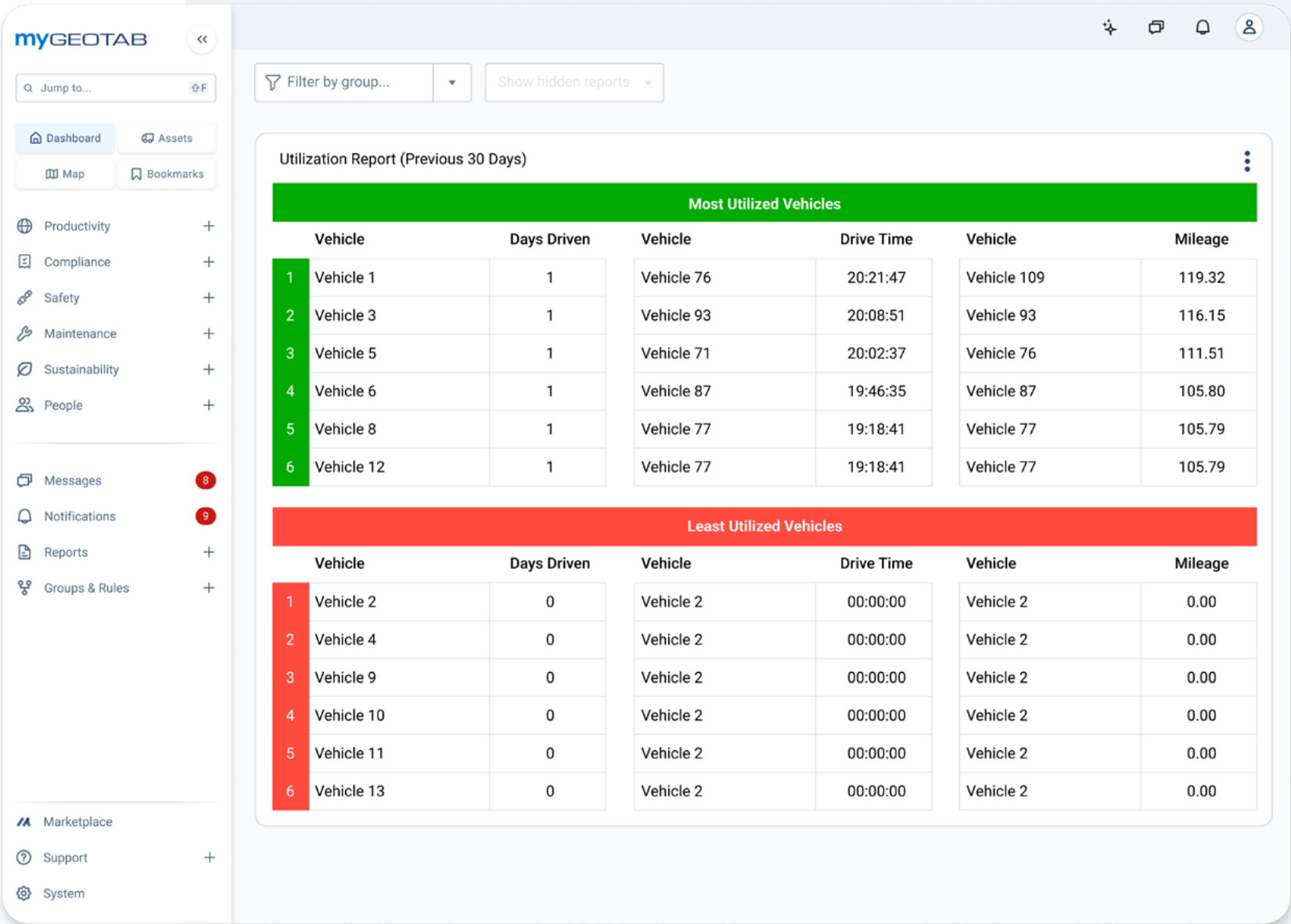
The State of Utah Police fleet, for example, required a solution that would help measure vehicle utilization in its 4,700-unit fleet, which consists of sedans and other vehicles, all the way up to Class 6/7 trucks.

In addition to having helped them right-size their fleet, Geotab also delivered more benefits, including:

- Enhancing officer safety.
- Improving maintenance practices.
- Integrating with equipment monitoring capabilities such as lights and siren usage, driver’s door open instances, and firearm locker open instances.

The State of Utah’s plan was to grow the Geotab solution, including developing a “panic” button with Geotab’s help that would allow drivers to call for help, no matter where they were.

Though significantly smaller, with just 31 vehicles, the **Belleville (Ontario) Police Service** had just as pressing of a need for a fleet management solution. Its primary goals were to maximize departmental efficiency and public accountability. As with the State of Utah Police fleet, Belleville Police Service included equipment integrations — lights and siren monitoring, seatbelt monitoring, and rifle rack monitoring — but also used it as a means to answer complaints from residents. The department has improved efficiency, including cutting officer paperwork time. But it has seen benefits beyond its initial needs, additionally improving vehicle maintenance and uptime, as well as officer safety. This has resulted in improved public perception, along with lower costs for the fleet.



DID YOU KNOW?

Geotab’s Asset Utilization dashboard helps police fleets examine which of their vehicles are being used more than others. If chasmic gaps are observed, you can develop new strategies to balance usage or cut unnecessary costs altogether by right-sizing your fleet.

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By delivering near real-time, actionable data right to your fingertips, police fleet management solutions can offer your department significant opportunities to increase officer safety, cut costs and provide timely maintenance to your vehicles. Through these powerful benefits, you can demonstrate greater fiscal responsibility, build greater public trust and better serve your community.

Be there when your community needs you:
Explore our [maintenance playbook](#) for powerful ways to improve your fleet’s mission-readiness with Geotab.



About Geotab

Geotab, the leader in public sector connected vehicle and asset solutions, uses advanced data analytics and AI to improve fleet performance, safety, and sustainability. Backed by a team of industry leading data scientists, engineers and AI experts, we serve over 3,000 public sector customers across North America and are the trusted partner to the GSA Fleet, State of California, Natural Resources Canada, New York City and the City of Toronto. Our roster of public sector subscriptions has surpassed the one million milestone, with agencies and departments of varying sizes trusting us to help them run smarter fleet operations.

Police fleets trust our solution to help them address important operational concerns like officer safety, efficiency and budget constraints using a single platform. Our platform is used by over 450 public safety teams to effectively manage their fleet operations and provide better front line support. Officers/Troopers are kept safer with unbiased fleet data that corroborates incident reports in the field.

Geotab's platform also offers unparalleled compatibility with other systems used by today's police departments. Operational integrations like lights and siren activity, gun rack status and temperature monitoring for K-9 officers/troopers and people transport can be implemented, allowing leaders to see all their insights from a single pane of glass. Viewing these data sets holistically adds crucial context to body-worn and dash camera footage, helping departments limit liability and uncover the truth.

With tools that enable supervisors to track detailed fleet information, departments can make more strategic decisions that promote safer, more efficient fleet operations. Keep officers safer on the roads with coaching based on bias-free insights into risky driving behaviors. These include speeding outside of incident response or lack of seat belt usage. Save money by increasing maintenance efficiency with detailed insights into engine performance, battery, tire and maintenance statuses. Safely extend the lifespans of fleet vehicles through more balanced utilization and timely, individualized care.

Reduce carbon emissions and maximize budget funds by managing fuel usage, idling and speeding. Responsibly transition to electric vehicles (EVs) with a data-centric approach, analyzing your own data to understand which internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles could be replaced first. Get recommendations for EVs based on operational realities using our platform and meet key environmental targets.

Geotab supports safer, better policing by addressing vehicle maintenance, GPS data and sustainability in one end-to-end solution. Our platform and integrations help departments modernize their operations and collect real-time insights that support better public service.

To learn more, please visit www.geotab.com and follow us [@GEOTAB](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).



This ebook is intended to provide information and encourage discussion on topics of interest to the telematics community. Geotab is not providing technical, professional or legal advice through this white paper. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this white paper is timely and accurate, errors and omissions may occur, and the information presented here may become outdated with time.

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