

TRANSCOM'S TRANSMIT System -- Privacy Procedures

The TRANSMIT system (TRANSCOM's System for Managing Incidents and Traffic) consists of a network of roadway readers which utilize E-ZPass electronic toll collection tags already installed in many vehicles as anonymous probes for determining travel times and detecting incidents. The TRANSCOM member agencies are permitted to use E-ZPass tags for TRANSMIT by the E-ZPass Inter-Agency Group. This permission is based on a fundamental principle that the system is to be used for traffic management purposes only, and not for any law enforcement purposes.

Rigorous privacy protections lie at the heart of the TRANSMIT system. Privacy is guaranteed through the anonymity built into the basic system design, functions and operations. At all TRANSMIT locations, except those at toll collection points, the TRANSMIT system uses a completely different set of readers from the E-ZPass toll collection system. At toll collection points, two independent data feeds exist, one to the TRANSMIT network and one to the toll collection network, ensuring the same degree of privacy. Whereas the toll system needs to know the identity of the vehicle, TRANSMIT does not. TRANSMIT is concerned with movements of statistically significant aggregations of vehicles -- not individual movements. Further, the TRANSMIT system scrambles the identity of each E-ZPass tag, and the system then disposes of the scrambled tag number when the vehicle leaves the system.