

Benefits of eCite

The benefits of an electronic citation project are numerous and can be divided into several categories:

- ***Officer Benefits***
 - Improved safety due to faster issuance of the ticket and less exposure to a potentially dangerous defendant;
 - Less effort and a resulting increase in job satisfaction;
 - No writer's cramps from writing repeated tickets through quadruplicate;
 - Integrated activity logbook to reduce the amount of redundant paperwork required;
 - Availability of electronic information about the defendant that will assist in enforcement;
 - Automated UTC Transmittal forms.

- ***Justice Benefits***
 - All citations are totally legible, and immediately in an electronic database;
 - All citations are totally complete, with computer edits assuring that no essential fields are omitted;
 - Computer consistency checks in the field assure accuracy to the greatest extent possible;
 - The electronic citations can immediately be transmitted to the court of jurisdiction, eliminating the need to do data entry by court personnel;
 - Increased efficiency of court clerks;
 - No backlog of tickets to enter;
 - Increased revenue due to speed in issuing ticket and ease in issuing multiple citations to same defendant.

- ***Highway Safety Benefits***
 - More thorough enforcement, due to the ease of issuing multiple citations;
 - Improved officer efficiency means that officers are able to spend a greater percentage of their shift time in patrol;
 - Meaningful warning tickets collected into database;
 - Immediate electronic availability of previous citations, thus allowing defendants receiving serial citations to be detected.

- ***Research Benefits***
 - Ability to concentrate enforcement efforts in an optimal fashion;
 - Ability to capture and map GPS coordinates on citations;
 - Ability to easily determine demographics (defendant background information, types of citations issued, etc.)

Accuracy, efficiency and safety will all improve radically as a result of using eCite. Use of this program is a force multiplier both for the officers and the court clerks. Ultimately, the safety of our roadways stands to dramatically improve through the implementation of the eCite project.

Contact Rhonda Stricklin at rstricklin@cs.ua.edu or at 1-866-349-CARE to learn how to put eCite into operation for your state or jurisdiction.

