

# E-citation/E-crash Data from PA TraCS to RMS Goes LIVE: UPPER MACUNGIE PD and CASTLE SHANNON BOROUGH PD

*A lesson in how key interface development can eliminate errors increase efficiency, and reduce administrative overhead.*

*Written by Maggie Riker, CODY Systems*



**Upper Macungie Police Department in Lehigh County, PA recently deployed two interfaces between PA TraCS and the department's records management system (RMS) for citations and crash reporting. Officers are raving about what it has done for streamlining their overall workflow and administrative function. "It works simply and seamlessly," said Detective Darren Simmers of Upper Macungie PD.**

"Data entered into PA TraCS by our officers in the car or at the station, now populates the appropriate fields in our CODY RMS system, thus eliminating redundant data entry and reducing errors that come from duplicate work. Plus, all related records are created in the system based on the data coming in from TraCS including Citation records, Crash reports/Incident records (including crash diagrams), Master Name records and even Vehicles records plus any narratives associated with these records."

"The automated process eliminates errors that come from re-keying citations," commented Detective Simmers. "We issued over 6000 citations in 2014, which resulted in over 100 hours of labor for our secretary to enter the citations into our RMS. The CODY-PA TraCS interface has freed up time to commit to other tasks."



**Lt. Michael Sitoski, Patrol Division Commander at Upper Macungie PD**



"Our department started using PA TraCS to some extent last year for e-crash and e-citations, but as of January 2015 with the implementation of this enhancement from CODY, all officers are now required

to use PA TraCS for all citations and crash reports as well as written warnings for motorists," said Detective Simmers.

Initially developed in 1994 by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with the Federal Highway Administrations and the Iowa Department of Public Safety, the system that would come to be known as TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) was originally conceived to address the need for automated management, sharing, and reporting of crash information in an effort to improve accuracy, timeliness, and data availability.

## **For the Upper Macungie PD, this has helped to cut administrative overhead in half.**

What the PA TraCS-CODY interfaces provide the department is an efficient approach that eliminates duplicate data entry for both officers and administrative staff. A true paperless system, data is literally entered once and flows through the entire crash reporting and citation issuing process to the district court and PennDOT, once validated and approved. For the Upper Macungie PD, this has manifested itself in cutting administrative overhead in half.

Since then, TraCS has evolved to become an integrated system for the collection, sharing, and electronic transfer of citation, crash, and other types of highway safety incident data. To date, over 13 states, including PA, have opted to use TraCS for electronic citation and crash reporting, and electronic submission to several state entities, state departments of transportation and the administrative court systems.

Problem was, since its implementation in PA, police departments who had an RMS in place but also wanted to take advantage of the traffic safety-specific functionality of PA TraCS were forced to duplicate work by entering incident data into both the PA TraCS system and their local RMS independently.

The key was that these same departments invested time in deploying and implementing PA TraCS and wanted to see the return on investment without the burden of duplicate entry. What they needed was an interface to facilitate a one-time data entry between PA TraCS and their RMS system so they could benefit from the breadth of functionality the PA TraCS system provides while at the same time getting crash and citation data into their RMS system to leverage the data for other purposes.



**Chief Ken Truver, Castle Shannon Borough PD**

**“One of the selling points of CODY,” commented Chief Truver, “is their ability and willingness to integrate with multiple IT vendor products already in place.”**

As proven experts in data conversion, migration, interfaces, and integration, this was a challenge that PA-based CODY Systems was eager to accept and deliver on.

In the first quarter of 2015, CODY Systems became one of the first public-safety RMS software providers in Pennsylvania to develop and deploy interfaces with PA TraCS for citations and crash reporting. This new functionality allows agencies who have invested in and used PA TraCS for years to enhance its functionality by providing a direct connection between PA TraCS and an agency’s CODY RMS system.



Castle Shannon Borough Police Department in Allegheny County was the first department to go live with this new enhancement. The department’s Chief of Police, Ken Truver, attests to CODY’s expertise in working with data and how this connection with PA TraCS

will allow his department to keep doing business as usual. “One of the selling points of CODY,” commented Chief Truver, “is their ability and willingness to integrate with multiple IT vendor products already in place.”

In fact, the PD recently replaced their legacy RMS with a new solution from CODY Systems. According to Chief Truver, one of the driving factors in that decision was that, “the legacy system in place was not meeting modern-day integration standards,” said Chief Truver, “and after the legacy vendor refused to integrate with certain key modules/systems, we accelerated out search for a new RMS system.”

Now Castle Shannon PD enjoys a complete, unified system -- one that provides an integrated RMS hub for data storage, integration, exchange, and retrieval to reduce duplication of effort and eliminate time wasted searching and entering data into multiple systems and databases.

In addition to Upper Macungie PD and Castle Shannon PD, other CODY customer agencies in PA have purchased this new interface, with many more on the way. “Our mission has always been to improve both the efficiency and safety of law enforcement professionals across the county, but we take particular pride in investing in developments that affect departments in our home state,” said Fran Heffner, President of CODY Systems. “The development of this connection with PA TraCS is just another example of this.”



**To learn more about this project, please feel free to contact :**

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