



Automated License Plate Recognition System  
Placement and Installation Guidelines  
Revised: January 7, 2026

## Section 1. General

Pursuant to section 316.0777(2)(b), Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) may approve the installation of an automated license plate recognition (LPR) system, also known as a license plate reader, within the right-of-way, as defined in section 334.03(21), Florida Statutes, of a road on the State Highway System at the request of a Law Enforcement Agency. In addition to site-specific restrictions and local ordinances, such installation must be in accordance with the following placement and installation guidelines.

## Section 2. Application and Documentation

A party requesting to install an LPR system within the right-of-way of a road on the State Highway System shall complete and submit a General Use Permit Application, Form 850-040-05, and the following documentation:

1. Letter from the Law Enforcement Agency using Agency letterhead and signed by Chief Executive requesting the installation of an LPR system and authorizing the individual to submit the permit application on behalf of the Law Enforcement Agency.
2. Site Plans denoting the location(s) (latitude and longitude) of each proposed installation, proximity to all nearby FDOT infrastructure (e.g., traffic control devices and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices), and all other location and offset criteria denoted in *Section 3.0*. Site Plans shall include all pertinent electrical and communication details. (Applicants are encouraged to contact the local FDOT Operations Center prior to submitting a permit.)
3. Manufacturer-provided standard structural installation details and foundation details for use on FDOT right-of-way that are signed and sealed by a Florida-licensed Professional Engineer.
4. A certification statement signed by an authorized official of the manufacturer indicating that the manufacturer's LPR system conforms to FDOT's LPR specifications and guidelines.

## Section 3. Placement and Installation Guidelines

The following requirements apply to the placement and installation of an LPR system within the right-of-way of a road on the State Highway System:

1. The placement and installation of an LPR system shall not reduce, impede, restrict, or obstruct driver view or sight distance of any intersection, driveway, crosswalk, or existing traffic control devices, nor interfere with any other FDOT or Traffic Signal Maintaining Agency equipment.

2. The LPR system shall be independent standalone structures with independent communications and an independent power source. The FDOT traffic signal system communications interconnect or fiber communications shall not be used to access, receive, or transport LPR system data.
3. Fixed LPR system shall have breakaway support mechanisms meeting the requirements in the current *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals*; or slip base design as required by *FDOT Standard Specification 700-3.1.2.2*, unless placed behind an existing barrier with the appropriate setback distance.
4. LPR system shall not be placed in medians or within sidewalks unless all other alternatives are deemed impractical. Any placement within sidewalks shall meet the minimum Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
5. Fixed LPR system shall be installed as close to the state, county, or local right-of-way line as possible and in compliance with the following criteria:
  - a. No closer than 4 feet from the face of the curb for curbed arterial and collector roadways with posted speed limits of 45 mph or less.
  - b. No closer than 12 feet from the outside edge of the traveled way for all other arterial and collector roadways, unless placed behind an existing barrier with the appropriate setback distance identified herein. W-beam guardrail requires a 5-foot setback from the face of the barrier and concrete barriers require a 2-foot setback from the face of the barrier.
  - c. Clear Zone Width requirements for New Construction per Table 215.2.1 of the FDOT Design Manual for limited access roadways unless placed behind an existing barrier with the appropriate setback distance identified herein. W-beam guardrail requires a 5-foot setback from the face of the barrier and concrete barriers require a 2-foot setback from the face of the barrier.
  - d. If the criteria identified in paragraphs 5(a) through 5(c) of this section (as applicable) cannot be met, the alternative placement requires approval in writing by the District Design Engineer for state roads, the County Engineer for county roads, or the Municipal Engineer for local roads (or their designees, respectively).
6. Mobile (portable) LPR system shall be placed either in accordance with Clear Zone Width requirements for New Construction per Table 215.2.1 of the FDOT Design Manual or behind an existing barrier with the appropriate setback distance identified herein. W-beam guardrail requires a 5-foot setback from the face of the barrier and concrete barriers require a 2-foot setback from the face of the barrier. If the criteria cannot be met, the alternative placement requires approval in writing by the District Design Engineer for state roads, the County Engineer for county roads, or the Municipal Engineer for local roads (or their designees, respectively).
7. If the LPR system uses any illumination device, it shall be mounted, positioned, or angled to limit the effects on the driver's visual field of view.

## Section 4. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What type or functional classification roadways are eligible for LPR installations?  
Answer: All State-owned roadways are eligible to have LPRs installed, including limited access facilities, principal arterials, suburban arterials, and collector roadways.
2. Is a General Use Permit required for installations not on the State Highway System?

Answer: Not from FDOT. The local agency responsible for the operations and maintenance of that roadway is responsible for reviewing proposed installations that are not on the State Highway System.

3. Who can apply for the General Use Permit to install LPRs?

Answer: Only Law Enforcement Agencies will be the Permittees. Law Enforcement Agencies may authorize others to apply for the permit to install LPRs on the State Highway System.

4. Are new applications required for existing LPRs currently installed on public roadways?

Answer: Yes. Existing LPRs that have been installed on structures being maintained by a local agency per a maintenance agreement on the State Highway System prior to July 1, 2023, can remain in their existing state, and are considered grandfathered in, but the Law Enforcement Agency must apply for a new permit. Existing LPRs not on structures being maintained by a local agency per a maintenance agreement must be removed by the Law Enforcement Agency and the Law Enforcement Agency must apply for a new permit.

5. Can the LPR cameras be attached to existing infrastructure within the right-of-way?

Answer: No, new LPR installations are not allowed to be installed on existing structures, such as signal mast arms, light poles, ITS poles, sign support structures, or bridge decks.

6. How may new LPRs be powered? And will there be a separate utility permit required?

Answer: New LPRs must be powered by stand-alone solar panels or connected to AC power through an electric utility supply meter provided by the area power utility company through their normal permit or application process.

7. Can LPR communications be connected to signal and FDOT fiber communications?

Answer: No. LPR communications must have its own and separate communication network and cannot be coexisting within State-owned conduit.

8. Can LPRs be installed within FDOT right-of-way that is adjacent to or part of a military base?

Answer: Those locations are subject to site-specific restrictions which may not allow the installation of LPRs. Applicants are encouraged to contact the local FDOT Operations Center prior to submitting a permit application.

9. Can the permits be renewed after the 5-year term?

Answer: The Permittee may apply for a new permit using the existing permit documents and backup what was submitted with the original application. If any requirements or changes have been made to the Statute, Administrative Code, Guidelines, or Special Provisions, revisions may be required from the applicant. A new permit number will be assigned as part of the approval to the new request.

10. Is a General Use Permit required for installations of a portable or mobile LPR system on the State Highway System?

Answer: Yes, a permit is required for any LPR system installation on the State Highway System.