Acceptable Uses of Remote Road Weather Cameras

Background
UDOT Maintenance personnel have available to them a network of remote cameras, strategically installed at certain locations where weather conditions may be unknown from the maintenance shed or office. These cameras enable the station crew to check the weather at those locations and make better decisions regarding if and when to deploy snow plows to the area. These cameras can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet through the use of a user name and password. Once accessed, the user can control the camera from the desktop, including full pan-tilt-zoom capability.

Potential for Misuse
Because full pan-tilt-zoom capabilities are available to the remote user, the potential exists for the cameras to be used for other than their intended purpose, which is to check the weather conditions. The use of these cameras for unauthorized purposes places the Department, and the camera user, in a position of liability, and must therefore be carefully avoided.

Authorized Uses
The following are the only acceptable uses by UDOT personnel of the remote weather cameras:
- Observing weather and/or pavement conditions at the remote location
- Observing traffic conditions (i.e. whether or not there is a slowdown or stoppage of traffic)
- Checking the operation of the cameras to be sure they work properly

Unauthorized Uses
The following uses by UDOT personnel of the remote weather cameras are unacceptable, and therefore strictly prohibited:
- Observing the activity of individual vehicles on the road, whether moving or stopped, other than normal traffic
- Zooming in on stopped vehicles, or on license plates, or on people either inside or outside of vehicles
- Zooming in on residences, businesses, or other buildings that may be in view of the camera
- Observing or recording human activity of any kind, either on the roadside or on private or public property adjacent to the road, or otherwise within the camera’s range
- Any other actions which could be perceived as an invasion of anyone’s personal privacy

Consequences of Misuse
All users of the remote cameras should be aware that all camera actions are automatically recorded, and subject to monitoring. Actions recorded include calling up the camera view,
moving the camera angle, zooming, and image captures. All recorded actions include time stamps from which the duration of access can be derived. The records include the IP address of the specific computer from which the camera is accessed, including any intermediate routers. Therefore, if any misuse occurs, the individual misusing the camera can be identified. All of the unauthorized uses listed above constitute invasions of privacy, and as such place both the Department and the individual user in jeopardy of legal action. Even without any third party legal action, individuals abusing their privilege of camera access are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

**General Guidance for Use of the Cameras**
The following guidelines are excerpted from the UDOT Traffic Operations Center policies on camera use, adapted for maintenance personnel.

1. **Since media outlets, CommuterLink website visitors, and other agencies have access to our camera feeds, it is crucial that each camera is focused on the roadway.** The goal is to see as much of the pavement as possible, and as little of anything else, such as sky, mountains, and grass, etc. Camera checks need to be completed at the start and end of every session to ensure proper camera positions are maintained. Camera positions are not reset back to a default position when a session ends, so the view you see when you end your session will be the same view the next user of that camera will see when beginning his session.

2. **While moving the camera, try to follow the pavement in an angle-across-angle movement, instead of a directly across movement.** Also, if houses or businesses are within view of the camera, do not zoom in on these.

3. **If an incident is found, notify the appropriate Dispatch office, and direct them to the video feed.**

4. **Operate cameras only within your assigned region.** If you need to operate a camera outside of your assigned region, notify your supervisor.

5. **Citizens and media cannot make you move the cameras.** Notify your supervisor if a special request has been made. Sometimes the request is justified, and sometimes it’s not.

**Procedure to Request Access**
Effective March 24, 2010, access to the cameras will be through individual user names and passwords. There will no longer be a common user name and password accessible to many. Access will be granted to all who have a legitimate need, but that access must be requested. To request access to the cameras, send an email to either Lynn Bernhard at lynnbernhard@utah.gov or to Lloyd Neeley at lneeley@utah.gov. Include in the email the reason access is needed. Supervisors are welcome to make requests on behalf of their employees. Lynn or Lloyd will then work with Live View Technologies to have the user name and password established, and notify you by return email when it is ready. After you have been issued a username and password, you can access the cameras at http://www.liveviewtech.com/udot/.