

E-Citations

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Driver's breaking traffic laws now have a much greater chance of getting a ticket.



That's because of a new E-Citation Program being used by state and local authorities.

Monday, we rode with Alabama State troopers and Dothan Police to see how the new E-Citation Program works.

State troopers have been using the system since July and Dothan Police just started using it the first week in April.

It's called E-Citation and authorities say it makes their jobs easier.

Alabama State troopers say a traffic stop used to take about 10 minutes. Now, issuing a citation only takes about five minutes to process. A laptop computer and wireless connection put information right at authorities' fingertips.

Alabama Highway Patrol Trooper Vern Obregon said, "It takes away from writing it, puts it on this laptop and it's going to be printed out for you and the information is transferred over to a citation or warning."

E-Citation not only saves time, but it saves money. It works in conjunction with new technology called E-Swear, which allows troopers to file all their citations in one place instead of driving to individual counties.

"The officer places his fingerprint on the scanner, the clerk puts his or her fingerprint on the scanner and the officer swears to the citations that have been transferred from his laptop to the court system," Obregon explains.

Officers from the Dothan Police Fifth Squad are testing the system and say it's cut their time to issue traffic citations in half. The officer enters information from the driver's license and license plate. The system shows if the person has any outstanding warrants or other citations.

Dothan Police Officer Maurice Eggleston said. "The E-Citation itself allows us to interact with other agencies as far as when we run a driver's license or get information from somebody who gives us one set of information, tries to give another officer something else."

It also helps keep the community safe.

Dothan Police Sergeant Anthony Westberry said, “It means the officer is able to get back in service quickly in case he's needed to answer a call for services.”

It gets drivers back on their way quickly, and hopefully, at the legal speed.

Dothan Police say multiple citations used to take two or three extra minutes to process.

Now, they can copy and paste and process those in a matter of seconds.

Dothan Police say they're already exploring purchasing an E-Citation system for every officer.