

## The Benefits of Two License Plates and the Costs of Removing One



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## LICENSE PLATES ARE SIMPLE SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOOLS USED EVERY DAY FOR:

- Vehicle identification
- Vehicle Registration Compliance
- Reflectivity at night
- Toll collection and parking enforcement
- Criminal identification & apprehension
- Amber & Silver Alerts
- Police officer safety: identifying vehicles at safe distance
- National security/Border Patrol
- School Bus Safety



# Burlington Free Press

## MURDER SUSPECT APPREHENDED

### Church Street Slaying Suspect Charged with Murder

Dec. 30, 2015

Interviews with witnesses — some of them non-cooperative — and the license-plate reader led to a break in the case. Murphy's name first surfaced at 2 p.m. Sunday when a woman phoned police and said Murphy called her earlier to say he "did something really bad last night," according to Nash's affidavit.

City police also said a **Chittenden County Sheriff's Department cruiser responding three minutes after the shooting passed a BMW headed in the opposite direction** a few blocks from Church Street. The cruiser's plate reader traced the 2016 BMW to a rental-car company that had rented the vehicle to Murphy, police said.

# STOWE REPORTER

## ROBBERY SUSPECT IDENTIFIED

Feb 12, 2017

Police arrested a man in Milton roughly 12 hours after he allegedly robbed a woman at gunpoint

Saturday night in the parking lot of a Stowe restaurant .....**Stowe police drove to the gas station and watched surveillance video, and were able to make out the license plate on the car the man was in.**

## As Drugs Fray Community, Wells River Takes a Stand

November 13, 2016

Vermont State Police Trooper Chuck Schulze said one trooper covers a roughly six-town area. The troopers have their own zones, but they adjust as calls come in, he said. Several troopers are on duty at any given time.

Troopers try to be as visible as possible in all the communities they serve, he said, and they try to take action when they can.

“We have heard of drug dealing. We know this stuff is going on,” he told those at the meeting. “But this isn’t a state where if I see you walking down the road I can say, ‘Let me see your backpack,’ or come right into your building. You just can’t do that. You have to have probable cause.”

**He urged residents to take down license plate numbers** and other identifying information and report that information to police if they see something suspicious.

## MISSING PERSONS

### VPR News

## License Plate Reader Helps Cops Find Missing Man

NOV 13, 2014

The Frequency

Stowe police found a missing elderly man early this morning with the help of an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system. Early Thursday morning in Stowe, **Tinker drove by a Stowe PD cruiser equipped with a license plate reader.** The officer stopped Tinker and he was "in good health, but confused," according to police. His family picked him up at the station in Stowe.

# Burglary suspect caught smiling

April 30, 2015

While police were investigating that incident, Myers allegedly moved on to another home, this one on Ruby Raymond Road in Waterbury Center.

**That's where the homeowner took the photo of Myers, looking at the camera, hands at his sides. She also took a picture of his car, a white Chevrolet Malibu, and its Vermont license plates.**

## CHILD & SCHOOL BUS SAFETY



# Drivers blow past stopped school buses in Colchester

October 6, 2014

"Ignorance of the law is not a defense," Colchester Police Chief Jennifer Morrison said.

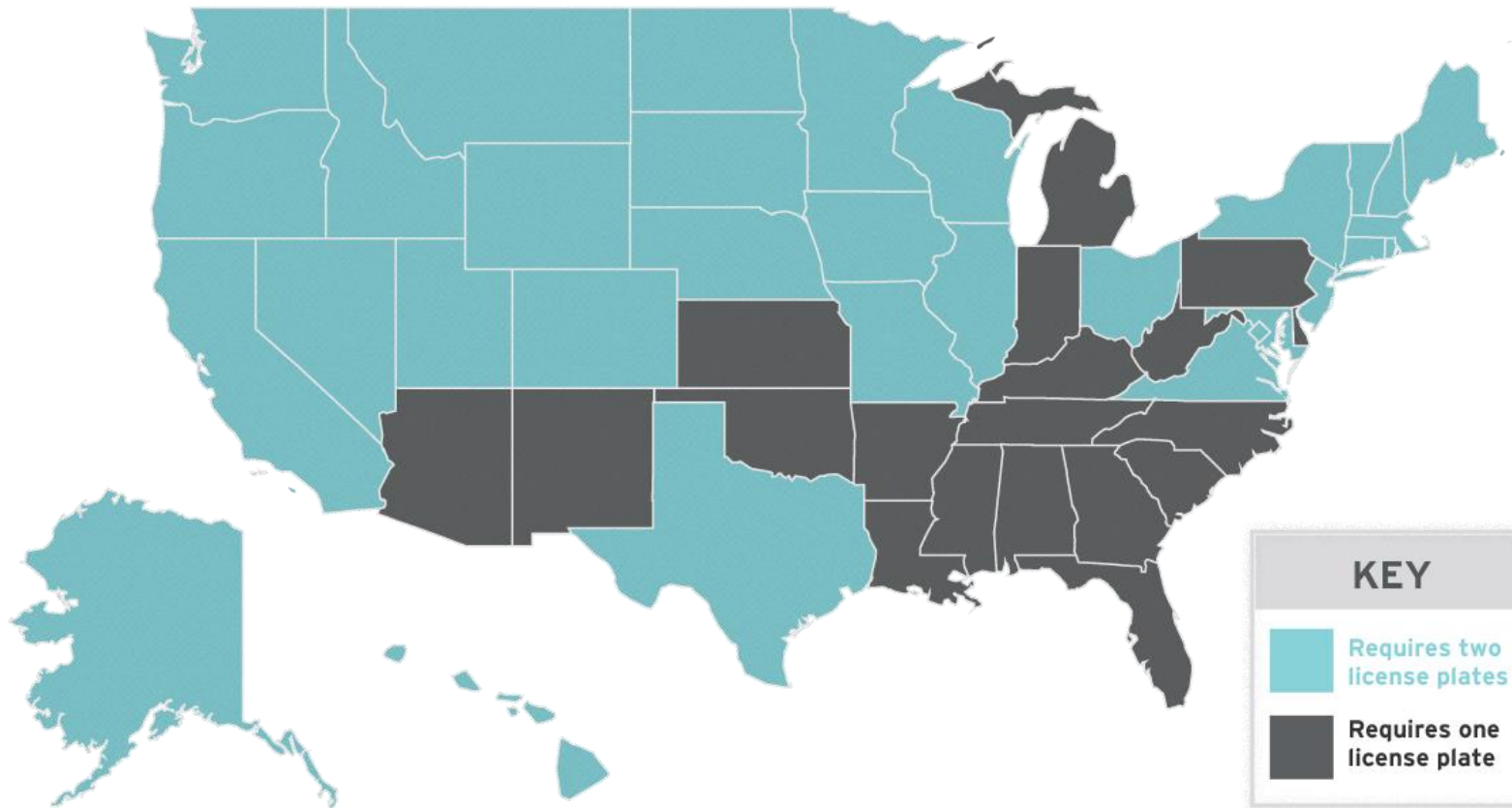
It is illegal in Vermont to buzz past a stopped school bus as it works its route, and Tuesday morning Morrison and her team were out issuing \$249 tickets to offenders who did not stop. Between 7:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m., four drivers were pulled over and written up.

"I just did not notice, because like I said I was following along with the other cars and did not see the school bus stop," said one ticketed driver who asked not to be identified.

**Morrison estimates there are as many as 12 people breaking the law every day.** She stresses that no matter what side of the road you are on, you have to stop.



# THE NATIONAL PICTURE TODAY



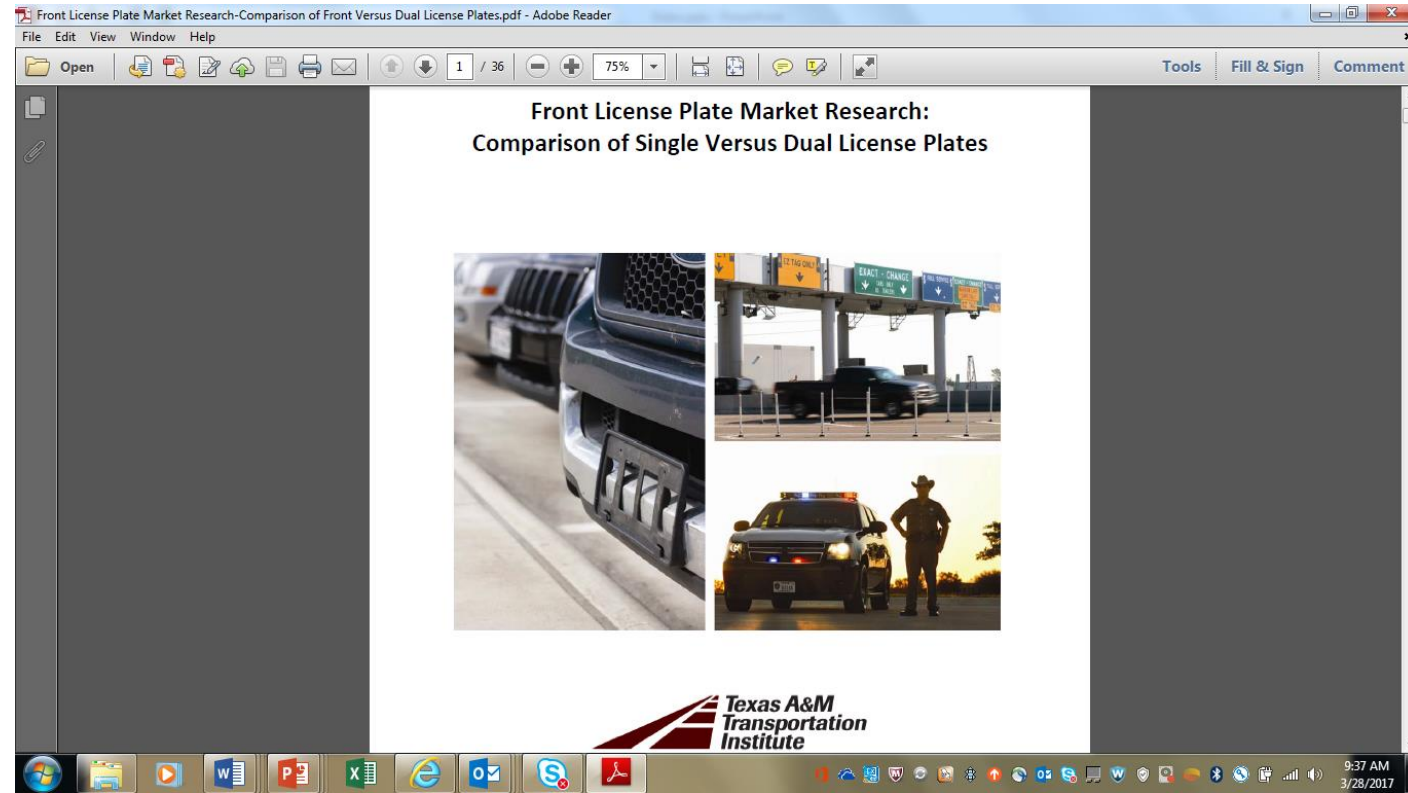
# HISTORY OF POLICY CHANGES

- Before World War II, all US states required two plates
  - A steel shortage brought on by the war triggered a switch to one plate across most of the country.
  - After the war ended, most states reverted to the two-plate requirement.
  - 31 States & District of Columbia have front and rear license plates, 19 rear plate only
  - Every country in the world issues front and rear (except some jurisdictions in US & Canada)
- In the late 1970s, two states (CT & MA) went from two plates to one, citing cost savings
  - Both reversed decision and returned to issuing front and rear plates.
  - **NO STATE HAS REMOVED THE FRONT PLATE IN MORE THAN 35 YEARS.**
- Legislation in states with front and rear license plates is regularly proposed to remove the front plate
  - States like Idaho, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wyoming and Texas regularly see legislative proposals to remove the front plate.
  - Legislative proposals typically supported by specialty car enthusiasts

# Studies Recommending Front & Rear License Plates

- Connecticut Reflectorized Safety Plate Task Force
- Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles License Plate Study Committee
- Rhode Island Special Senate Committee on License Plates
- Ohio Legislative License Plate Safety Task Force
- Virginia License Plate Study Group

## AAMVA Working Group on License Plates



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CHIEFS OF POLICE



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



# Cost

- \$4.75/pair VCI to DMV
  - Aluminum & Reflective sheeting are \$1.95/pair
    - \$0.975/plate
  - Other costs (overhead, labor, etc.) \$2.80/pair
- License plates are made in pairs at VCI
- Eliminating front plate will reduce just 21% of the plate costs



# Impact of Removing the Front Plate.....

- What will happen to the thousands of pairs of license plates DMV currently in inventory?
- There are more than 400,000 registered Pleasure (Passenger) Vehicles in Vermont. What will happen to the 400,000 plates currently on the front of vehicles today?
  - Would motorists be required to return their front plates to DMV?
  - How much would this cost DMV to manage the return of hundreds of thousands of single plates?
  - What would impact be on DMV mail room and counter operations?
- Would “Plate Splitting” result by motorists who seek to avoid properly registering a vehicle and take the now-no-longer required front plate and attach it to the rear of another vehicle? In doing so, they would seek to avoid paying the \$76.00 DMV motor vehicle registration fee.
- If just 0.5% of motorists took the currently legally issued front plate and placed it on another vehicle, this would result in 2,000 vehicles avoiding registration fees reducing vehicle registration revenue by \$152,000 negating any “savings” being considered.

# TWO LICENSE PLATES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you.