

Safer Communities, Lower Costs:

What Government Leaders Need
to Know About AI Dash Cams



AI-powered dash cameras in government vehicles play a key role in streamlining agency operations, reducing risk and liability, and keeping drivers and constituents safe.

But according to a 2026 Samsara report,¹ only 49% of public sector agencies have adopted dash camera technology. Most officials — including 56% of state agency leaders and 71% of local agency leaders surveyed — cited up-front costs as the primary barrier.

Despite their cost, dash cameras have an impressively high, rapid ROI. In the same study, 89% of dash camera users in the public sector saw ROI in the first six months, and 68% of users fully recovered costs in the first year.

AI dash cameras offer even more savings and advantages, including analytics for proactive coaching of drivers, real-time tracking of weather patterns and enhanced privacy features.

“Everyone is facing budget constraints,” says Scott Jobe, head of public sector strategists at Samsara. “By implementing AI dash cameras, cash-strapped agencies can both innovate and find cost savings.”



Protecting Government Against False Claims

With insurance premiums on the rise, dash cameras are critical for helping governments protect drivers against false claims, avoid hefty settlement costs and reduce insurance rates.

On-demand footage allows organizations to quickly provide evidence for investigations. In the Samsara report, 91% of public sector respondents reported using dash camera footage to exonerate a driver against a false claim, with 60% of those organizations saving \$100,000 or more from exonerations alone. Almost all dash cam adopters (98%) saw a decrease in their annual insurance premium.²

AI dash cameras also make it easier to find and access footage, which streamlines internal investigations and results in further savings.

“From litigation and settlement costs to insurance premium increases to administrative time to operational disruption, there are many hidden costs to these investigations,” Jobe says. “Dash camera technology can save money and allow staff to spend more time on constituent-focused work.”

Increasing Community Safety

While traditional dash cameras can help agencies respond to accidents and dangerous driver behavior, AI-powered cameras lead to proactive strategies that prevent accidents before they occur.

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The technology alerts drivers of dangerous habits (including distracted driving, harsh breaking and drowsiness), sending them multiple notifications or “nudges” before an alert is sent to their manager.

“Automatic coaching allows drivers to take corrective measures before a bad incident becomes a bad habit,” says Bob Bennett, a senior fellow at the Center for Digital Government. The right AI safety solution can dramatically reduce crash rates by nearly 75%.³

AI-enabled solutions provide a dashboard that gives agencies access to driver information, allowing them to easily see who needs additional coaching and who should be celebrated for good driving.

“The majority of vehicle operators are making smart, safe choices every day,” Bennett says. “An accountability tool like a dash cam allows you to reward those people who are doing everything right.”

Drivers themselves appreciate these safe-driving technologies. A Samsara distracted driving report found that 86% of drivers are more likely to stay in a job if the employer has implemented a protocol to prevent distracted driving.⁴ By retaining safe drivers, agencies can save resources used for hiring and onboarding new staff.

Safer Roads Through AI Dash Cams

AI-powered dash cam technology allows agencies to catch safety risks before they become costly incidents. For example, agencies can:

- Automatically detect risky driving behaviors like distracted driving, speeding and following too closely, giving supervisors the chance to coach drivers before a crash happens
- Use dash camera footage to identify road hazards like potholes and drainage issues so officials can proactively fix infrastructure problems
- Reduce vehicle theft and vandalism through cameras, which saves time and money spent finding, replacing and repairing equipment

“The safety benefits of dash cams are what help leaders get budget approval,” Jobe says. “But the efficiency of the technology is what pays for it.”

Conclusion: Cost-Effective Innovation

With 96% of public sector leaders reporting that dash cameras freed up money in their agency budgets,⁵ this technology exemplifies how the right tool can be an essential part of a cost-saving strategy.



5 Questions You Should Ask About AI Dash Cam Investments

1 / Is this a risk management strategy or a technology purchase?

Are we addressing one of our largest sources of liability and hidden costs, or are we simply adding another tool?

2 / How does this protect our workforce and our reputation?

Will this help exonerate employees, reduce false claims and strengthen public trust?

3 / Are we using this to prevent incidents or just document them?

How will AI and real-time data help us move from reactive response to proactive risk reduction?

4 / How will this data be governed and shared across agencies?

Can insights from this system improve planning, public safety and operations beyond a single department?

5 / What is the long-term fiscal impact?

Will this reduce litigation, improve efficiency and lower total costs — not just shift spending?

1. <https://www.samsara.com/pdf/docs/public-sector-dash-cam-roi-report-2026.pdf>
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. <https://www.samsara.com/pdf/public-sector-soco-distracted-driving-report.pdf>
5. <https://www.samsara.com/pdf/docs/public-sector-dash-cam-roi-report-2026.pdf>

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