

Department of Sanitation New York City
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Application Narrative for Proposed Special Equipment Program

Proposed Program

The Department of Sanitation in New York City has developed innovative software to allow real time tracking of its trucks and vehicles during their scheduled and unscheduled routes throughout the city. This mobile application is available to NYC Department of Sanitation employees to track and monitor every vehicle at all times to improve service, route efficiencies and overall effectiveness. This mobile application is also being made available to their customers who want or need to monitor garbage pickup, snow removal and street sweeping activities. When functioning as designed, this application greatly improves real-time information available to customers and Department of Sanitation employees and has been met with great enthusiasm.

The Department of Sanitation garages are mostly older, concrete structures with many garages below street level with absolutely no GPS availability. This causes significant issues with the ability of the software to maintain tracking even when the vehicles leave the garages. An experiment to test the software with a live GPS signal inside the garage instantly corrected this issue. It allowed all vehicles to be monitored at all times and eliminated the software issues that were occurring due to the lapses in coverage and subsequent reporting errors that could occur at any time throughout the day.

The proposed design will be installed to insure no signal leakage outside the garages and will only cover the specific parking spaces used by these sanitation vehicles. This will also provide the additional benefit of allowing vehicle maintenance to be performed inside these garages.

Objectives

We seek to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Illumination of specific areas that previously had no GPS availability
2. Further design, development and enhancement of existing mobile application
3. Ability to troubleshoot and repair vehicles issues at their specific parking spots

Potential Benefits to Radio Art

This project has attracted interest from other metropolitan departments and is being evaluated for its potential to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and provide real-time information within departments and customers alike as well as the potential for having significant public safety benefits.