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People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The £800,000 speed camera cock-up

MCN By Steve Farrell - 25 April 2010

High-tech new speed cameras on one of the country's most popular bike routes are useless due to an apparent oversight.

The new cameras are aimed at catching motorcyclists on the A537 Cat and Fiddle road from Macclesfield to Buxton, Derbyshire.

They have been installed at five points along the road and riders are timed between them to calculate their average speed.

But camera bosses have apparently failed to take into account that between two of the sites there is a shortcut with a higher speed limit.

The cameras depend on a distance-over-time calculation to determine speed. But the shortcut shaves a third of a mile off the distance, rendering the calculation inaccurate.

The shortcut also has a 60mph speed limit whereas the A537 is a 50mph zone.

The Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership has spent £800,000 installing the cameras.

Partnership manager Lee Murphy said the cameras were functioning but no-one had yet been prosecuted.

He acknowledged the flaw but denied it was an oversight.

“We’re looking at that now as an issue for us,” he said. “There are a couple of calculations to be made and we’re just testing it out now and we’ll have a view on it.”

The PPP comments This story confirms that these so called road safety partnerships are, as we always described them, dangerously useless UNHOLY ALLIANCES. This potentially dangerous road now has numbers of large potholes which must be the priority for the council. They must be held accountable for any incidents arising from the lack of maintenance. The enormous cost of these now useless cameras was to be paid for by fines, The money could have funded road patrols which would have been much better value and would target the really dangerous drivers, criminals using this route and vehicle breakdowns and other true emergency service events!