

SAMSARA + LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Fort Lauderdale

1,700+

VEHICLES

28%

REDUCTION IN VEHICLE
DOWNTIME

20%

REDUCTION IN IDLE TIME

5%

DECREASE IN FUEL
CONSUMPTION



samsara



City of Fort Lauderdale relies on the Samsara platform to improve city services and communication with residents, reduce environmental impact, and decrease fleet downtime.

City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, manages over 1,700 vehicles in its fleet across multiple city departments. The fleet department works closely with 11 departments, including public works, parks and recreation, police, and fire rescue.

When the city manager launched an initiative to lower emergency response times and improve visibility into the city's first responders, the fleet department started a search for a real-time GPS provider.

Through their evaluation, they recognized the need for a complete platform solution that would provide insights to maintenance and driver behavior with robust reporting capabilities.

"With Samsara we're able to identify fuel usage, speeding, harsh events, and power take-off," said Sandy Leonard, Program Manager of Fleet Services at the City of Fort Lauderdale. "There are so many things we can capture in one system."

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Sandy Leonard

Program Manager of Fleet Services,
City of Fort Lauderdale

Improving response to citizens with increased fleet visibility

Before implementing Samsara, the City of Fort Lauderdale's fleet department relied on phone calls to locate and then dispatch workers.

With the transition to Samsara, all departments can now track their vehicles in real time, making it easy to dispatch teams quickly and efficiently. Increased visibility into the fleet has also helped the City of Fort Lauderdale better respond to resident inquiries or complaints, significantly improving their service.

"Samsara gives us accountability on the fly," said Drew Newstrom, Automotive and Equipment Specialist. "Before, if we got a call that a city vehicle was speeding or driving recklessly, all we could say was 'we're sorry.' Now I can look to see which vehicle was there, who was driving the vehicle, and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Coastal living also means managing the clean-up after storms or hurricanes. Following Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, Leonard remembers responding to citizen calls that their neighborhood hadn't been cleared.

The team is already ready for the next storm, and will be relying on Samsara's real-time GPS to keep close tabs on fleet location and ensure timely response.

Tracking heavy vehicles to save a bridge

Samsara also helped the city solve a major citizen complaint: constant closures of a historic, commonly trafficked bridge due to over-weight-limit vehicles crossing the bridge. The nearly 100-year-old Snow-Reed Swing Bridge was closed for two to three months at a time due to maintenance, forcing citizens and visitors to take a three-mile detour.

“Residents living in that neighborhood were very upset. The bridge would be closed for a while, then open again for a couple days, then be down for weeks,” said Newstrom.

Leonard and Newstrom were able to use Samsara to tag all city vehicles that exceeded the bridge’s 5-ton weight limit and used a geofence to determine how often heavy city vehicles were crossing the bridge. This kind of reporting, combined with Samsara’s real-time alerts, allowed city departments to monitor and decrease the number of the city’s overweight vehicles crossing the bridge by 90% within five months. This helped Fort Lauderdale avoid unnecessary bridge closures and save money on bridge maintenance.

Increasing efficiency with maintenance and idling data

Maintenance is a top priority for the fleet department. Before implementing Samsara, Newstrom’s team had little visibility into fleet health and depended on drivers to self-report potential problems. Unfortunately, most drivers wouldn’t bring in a vehicle until it was too late.

Samsara’s live engine diagnostic information allowed the City of Fort Lauderdale to see engine faults across their fleet in real-time and more quickly diagnose maintenance issues. This increased visibility allowed the team to make better decisions about maintenance and extend the health of the fleet.

“If a vehicle is in the shop, it’s not out there working,” said Newstrom. “With a vehicle like a street sweeper, if the issue isn’t critical, we’ll have them finish their shift and drop it off with us. We’ll work on it overnight to get it back on the road in the morning.”

As a result of this new visibility, the team reduced average vehicle downtime by 28% and reduced the average number of vehicles in the shop by 24%.





Increased visibility into fleet health and activity also allowed the City of Fort Lauderdale to reduce idle time by 20%. Newstrom leveraged the Samsara Fuel Usage Report to see how much fuel was being used and paired this with driver behavior data to help supervisors coach their teams on best practices for fuel-efficient driving. So far, the fleet department has decreased fuel consumption by 5%—even as the fleet grew. This is the equivalent to 28,000 gallons of fuel saved, about \$70,500 in savings. “Samsara helps the city be more efficient,” said Newstrom.

Looking towards the future

The City of Fort Lauderdale is looking forward to elevating new city services and providing increased visibility into taxpayer investments.

To share the real-time location of the city's new tram, the fleet department is in the process of setting up a Samsara

Live Sharing link. This feature will allow residents and visitors to easily check the status of the next arriving tram, so they can easily coordinate next ride down to the beach or downtown area.

The team is also expanding into asset tracking to better manage the city's equipment and other assets. With this data, the City of Fort Lauderdale will be able to track asset usage and location with the same granularity as their fleet.

“Awareness was our biggest challenge—we just didn't know what was happening,” said Leonard. “We have that visibility now with Samsara and we're able to change behavior. This is huge.”

Find out how the Samsara platform can help your organization. Email us at sales@samsara.com.