

## Look into drones for road safety

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### LETTERS

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PLUS has reported that as a responsible corporate citizen it is considering adding another 11 Automated Awareness Safety System (Awas) cameras to the existing 19 along the North-South Expressway.

As reported, Plus will bear the estimated RM2mil installation cost and they will discuss with the Road Transport Department (JPJ) on picking up the annual maintenance costs later.

Given the fact that 80% of traffic accidents are due to human factors such as speeding, perhaps Plus should explore the prospect of using drone technology to patrol the highways.

The JPJ could help set up the once popular police "Beat Bases" in laybys from where the drones could airborne.

Even patrol cars can be stationed at strategic intervals to fly the drones over several kilometres. This will save on fuel and vehicular maintenance costs.

If it is found to be cheaper in the long run, perhaps even allowing locals living nearby these highways to take on part time drone operations would add to their income hence making drones a better option compared to the expensive Awas cameras.

Plus should also discuss with corporations erecting expensive road side billboards to contribute a share in improving road safety monitoring. After all, making our country safer and more secure is everybody's business.

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