

# LastMILE™

Broadband Design and Deployment

## Phoenix PD Punts Problems Away

*Wireless Video Surveillance Protects Super Bowl Crowds*

More than 200,000 people blitzed the Phoenix area last month for the spectacle that was Super Bowl XLII. During the weekend of Feb. 2, the Phoenix Police Department set up a high-speed wireless mesh network to relay camera footage to two operations centers in the effort to keep watch over the athletes, spectators, citizens, dignitaries and media members who swarmed downtown Phoenix.

The ad hoc system, provided by Firetide Inc., transported evidence-grade video from cameras in alleys, the middle of the street and other hard-to-reach places to the operations centers, helping the police to decrease traffic congestion and reduce the risk of incidents while putting fewer “boots on the ground.”

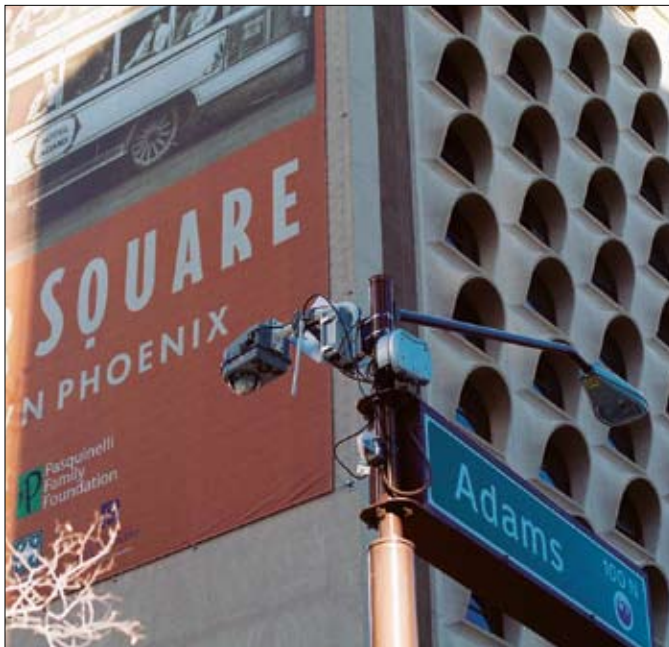
“Our Firetide wireless video surveillance system considerably increases the Phoenix Police Department’s situational awareness,

response time and ability to protect the public,” says Chris Jensen, a detective in the city’s Drug Enforcement Bureau. “Before we had this system, an incident around the corner could easily escalate into a larger problem before it was even detected. With 360-degree cameras, trained operators are able to see incidents as they occur. Our Firetide video network acts as a force multiplier.”

The department installed 42 video surveillance cameras in and around downtown Phoenix with 40 mesh nodes to wirelessly connect the cameras to the operations centers where state, local and federal public safety agencies could keep tabs on daily events. Specially trained agents monitored the real-time video streams and coordinated responses. Those 42 cameras were a temporary deployment in addition to the fixed traffic cameras the city uses on a regular basis.



The Phoenix Police Department deployed more than 40 wireless cameras and mesh network nodes to help protect the massive crowds that traveled to Phoenix during Super Bowl XLII. The mesh network transmitted video from city streets to two police command centers.



A wireless camera and mesh node keeps watch over a downtown Phoenix intersection during Super Bowl weekend.

“Phoenix’s model for video surveillance is we normally work on an as needed basis or very case specific,” Jensen says. “The city will do a temporary deployment for that event or that case. For the Super Bowl, obviously it was a larger event, we had to coordinate with other city departments to get on traffic light poles and get access to city buildings. From that regard, it was a little more involved than what we usually do. The deployment was a little larger.”

The police department uses Firetide’s HotPort 6000 mesh nodes together with the company’s HotView Pro management software to control the network. Avrio Group, a supplier of IP-based surveillance solutions, designed the network and collaborated with the police department’s technical personnel on the installation.

“Our Firetide mesh network has proven effective in our major investigations and now has become a quick security solution for major events,” said Lieutenant Vincent J. Piano, a commanding officer in the city’s Drug Enforcement Bureau. “It has been very adaptable to many types of law enforcement activities.”

The Phoenix Police Department has used a wireless video surveillance network since the summer of 2006 to support covert operations during a serial crime spree and has used it in numerous other investigations.

In the preplanning stages before the Super Bowl XLII, police officers surveyed locations where cameras were to be installed, needing only a power source and a mesh node to transmit the live video feed above the anticipated city guests. The installation was done in a matter of weeks.

“Today, Firetide wireless mesh technology plays an increasingly important role in helping law enforcement agencies keep the public safe,” said Bo Larsson, CEO of Firetide. “Nowhere is this safety more critical than at a major event such as this football game, involving crowds in the hundreds of thousands.”

The Phoenix Police Department will continue to use the equipment, including the mesh nodes and cameras, for investigations and video surveillance of the Phoenix area.



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## Q&A

### Five Questions with Detective Chris Jensen of the Phoenix Police Department

*Last Mile:* What was the biggest challenge of dealing with the Super Bowl crowd?

*Jensen:* “The actual game itself was in Glendale, Ariz. What we were responsible for was the security in the core downtown [Phoenix] area. That’s where the NFL actually had their headquarters. That’s where the international media center was. That’s where they passed out Super Bowl tickets. Those types of events were in the downtown area. What we were mainly concerned with was the influx of the world’s media, securing the football players that were coming down for interviews and the celebrities from Hollywood and across the nation who were coming in. We had large crowds, and we took care of that by barricading the downtown area, basically making it into a pedestrian walkway.”

*LM:* Were there any major incidents during the festivities?

*Jensen:* “Not really, and I attribute that to the preplanning, the way we had shut down the downtown area, the intelligence we had ahead of time that allowed us to put our security assets in the right places, minimized a lot of the potential problems. The biggest thing we dealt with using our wireless security cameras were ticket scalpers, pickpockets, ladies of evening and those kinds of activities.”

*LM:* Was the surveillance noticeable to the people who came into downtown Phoenix?

*Jensen:* “Yes, this deployment was totally overt. All of our cameras were either on the side of buildings or on traffic lights. It was very clear to anyone coming into the downtown area that they were under surveillance.”

*LM:* Does that kind of obvious presence help deter crime?

*Jensen:* “Exactly. If you have someone who’s totally committed it’s not going to slow them down much. Obviously, there was no need to be covert and there is a security value in letting folks know that you have cameras out there.”

*LM:* What benefits are there to having a wireless video surveillance system?

*Jensen:* “No. 1 is flexibility. We’re able to take the Firetide mesh nodes, set them up in any area of town that we need to do surveillance in. We can throw the cameras up rapidly and get the images back to our operations center. When the operation is over, we’re able to tear it down and move to the next area of operations. I think a lot of our commanders, prior to the Super Bowl that hadn’t dealt with our cameras, didn’t know our capabilities and I think we hit a home run in that we far exceeded their expectations.”