

All,

I have observed demonstrations of Sidewinder's Hydrophilic (TiO₂) "self cleaning" glass window but never experienced firsthand until now.

Theoretically, the TiO₂ glass does NOT allow water to bead up on the glass; instead it spreads out & evaporates (setting Sidewinder apart from the competition).

TCD is installing new Sidewinder cameras at several construction locations throughout the Houston METRO area.

One specification location which is now labeled Camera 180 / I-45S @ Monroe was very dirty and appeared to have a huge dirt spot right in the middle.

You could see the traffic scene, but you were very limited by the huge spot.

Yesterday afternoon I turned this camera toward the sky to let the rain fall down on it and evaluate what WTI said it should do.

I contacted Debbie Smith who took the camera OFFLINE so no one could move it during the night. She brought it back ONLINE this morning and the camera view looks great.

I'm passing this information along because as we add more Sidewinder cameras this simple benefit can save TXDOT (Taxpayers) \$\$ thousands.

A Preventative Maintenance just to clean a dirty camera glass at a Main Lane Closure location is a huge cost saving measure.

As a camera gets dirty, just point it to the sky at night and give it a bath – in the morning put it back on the freeway and your back in business.

Regards,

Gregory S. Hawkins

**ITS Project Manager
Traffic Control Devices**



A San Francisco U shaped bus stop: typical surveillance camera (left) and our camera with the Hydrophilic "Self-Cleaning" glass window (right).

