ALCEA
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safeguarding Nashville's streets:

how ALCEA's traffic lock is powering a smarter, safer future.



ALCEA's Kory Hamill, along side NDOT's David Burns and Jennifer Ramirez.

In the heart of Tennessee's bustling capital, the Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT) is taking a decisive step forward in its mission to safeguard critical traffic infrastructure and the millions who rely on it daily. The city's newly opened Transportation Operations Center, which officially launched in October 2024, is now home to the region's most advanced traffic management systems. At the core of this modernization is a simple but powerful concept: better locks.

Starting in July 2025, NDOT began a staged rollout of ALCEA's 75481 Series Traffic Cabinet Locks, transforming the way Nashville protects its signal cabinets, Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) boxes, and the technology that keeps traffic flowing safely, from downtown Broadway's iconic intersections to neighborhood school zones.

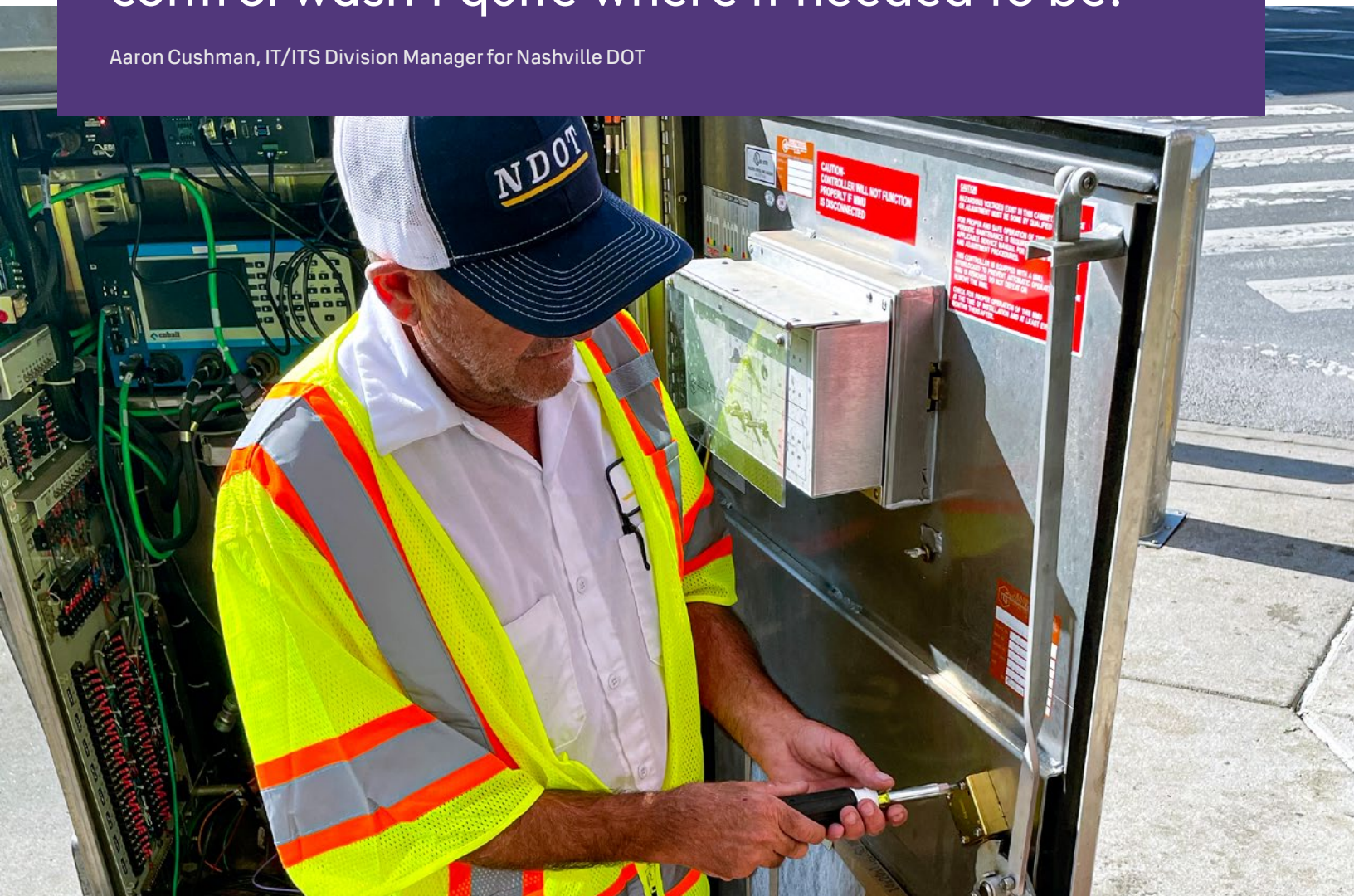
knowing who's inside every cabinet, every time.

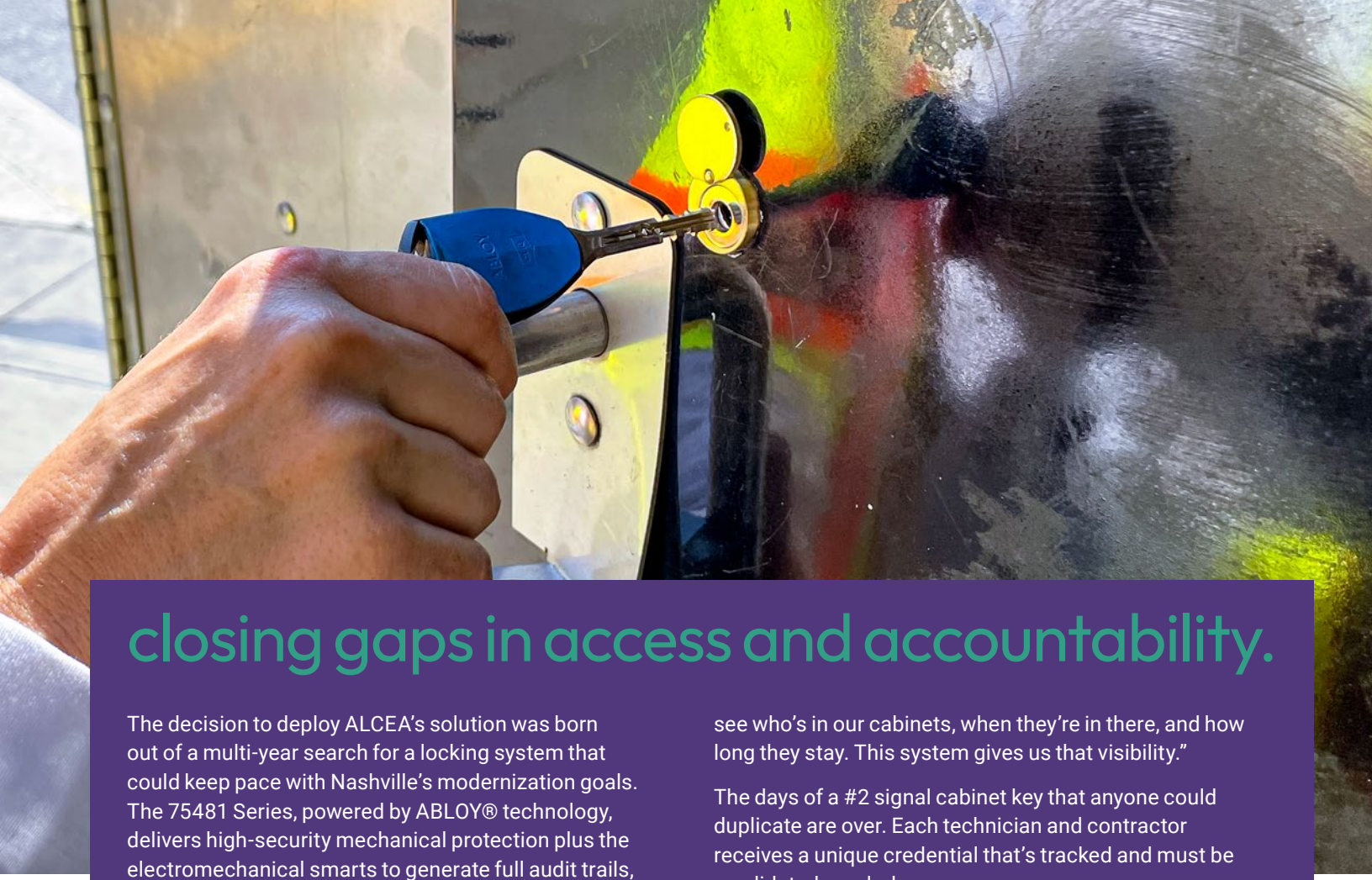
Nashville's smart mobility goals have never been more ambitious. The city's growth, record tourism, and major events place tremendous demands on its roadways. With tens of thousands of drivers, buses, cyclists, and pedestrians moving through intersections each day, the smallest vulnerability inside a traffic cabinet, from unsecured doors to untracked contractor access, can pose risks to public safety.

"The truth is, our level of security and control wasn't quite where it needed to be," says Aaron Cushman, IT/ITS Division Manager for Nashville DOT. "We recognized the importance of improving our standards in terms of who's in our cabinets, when, and why. That accountability piece was missing."

Like many municipalities across the nation, Nashville's legacy system relied on standard keys with no way of tracking who accessed a cabinet or when it was left unsecured. With thousands of dollars' worth of signal controllers, networking equipment, and communications hardware housed inside each cabinet, the stakes are high. As the city invested in its new Traffic Management Center, it became clear that the first line of defense needed to match the sophistication inside.

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closing gaps in access and accountability.

The decision to deploy ALCEA's solution was born out of a multi-year search for a locking system that could keep pace with Nashville's modernization goals. The 75481 Series, powered by ABLOY® technology, delivers high-security mechanical protection plus the electromechanical smarts to generate full audit trails, manage permissions, and provide real-time accountability for every keyholder: city staff, field technicians, third-party contractors, or timing study consultants.

"Key control and cabinet control. That's really what this comes down to," Cushman adds. "We want to be able to see who's in our cabinets, when they're in there, and how long they stay. This system gives us that visibility."

The days of a #2 signal cabinet key that anyone could duplicate are over. Each technician and contractor receives a unique credential that's tracked and must be revalidated regularly.

"We're going to see a real change in how we do business," Cushman explains. "Weekly or daily key syncs will hold people more accountable. If something happens, we'll know exactly who was where."

the ALCEA partnership.

Before choosing ALCEA, Nashville's team vetted multiple vendors and technologies. What set ALCEA apart? Simplicity and support. "The ALCEA system was the easiest for our people to use," says Cushman. "It's secure but doesn't add unnecessary headaches. That was huge for us."

The 75481 Series design is also a practical fit for the city's cabinet infrastructure. Its drop-in installation means most locks can be swapped out in minutes without costly retrofits or new hardware. This helps the city balance high security with responsible budgeting, a challenge that cities like San Jose and Grand Prairie, Texas, have recently navigated with ALCEA's unique hybrid lock approach.

While some cities use a mix of mechanical and electromechanical locks to prioritize higher-risk sites, Nashville opted to go fully electromechanical for its traffic cabinets, a testament to its commitment to control and auditability across the board. The city plans to add a range of mechanical padlocks for lower priority access points on the same keying system.

a phased rollout to protect a growing city.

The program kicked off in July 2025 with an initial wave of installations, and will expand in stages until every signal cabinet in Nashville is upgraded. The scope is large, with more than 1,000 intersections citywide.

Kory Hamill, ALCEA's transportation sector specialist and lead on the project, credits Nashville's proactive mindset. "When you're talking about protecting a network as critical as a city's traffic system, every cabinet door matters," says Hamill. "Nashville's leadership understands that physical security is the first line of defense. It's inspiring to see a city put that kind of vision into action."

While the rollout is still ramping up, the impact will be immediate. With every lock installed, the city takes another step toward a future where its streets stay safer, even in the face of evolving threats.

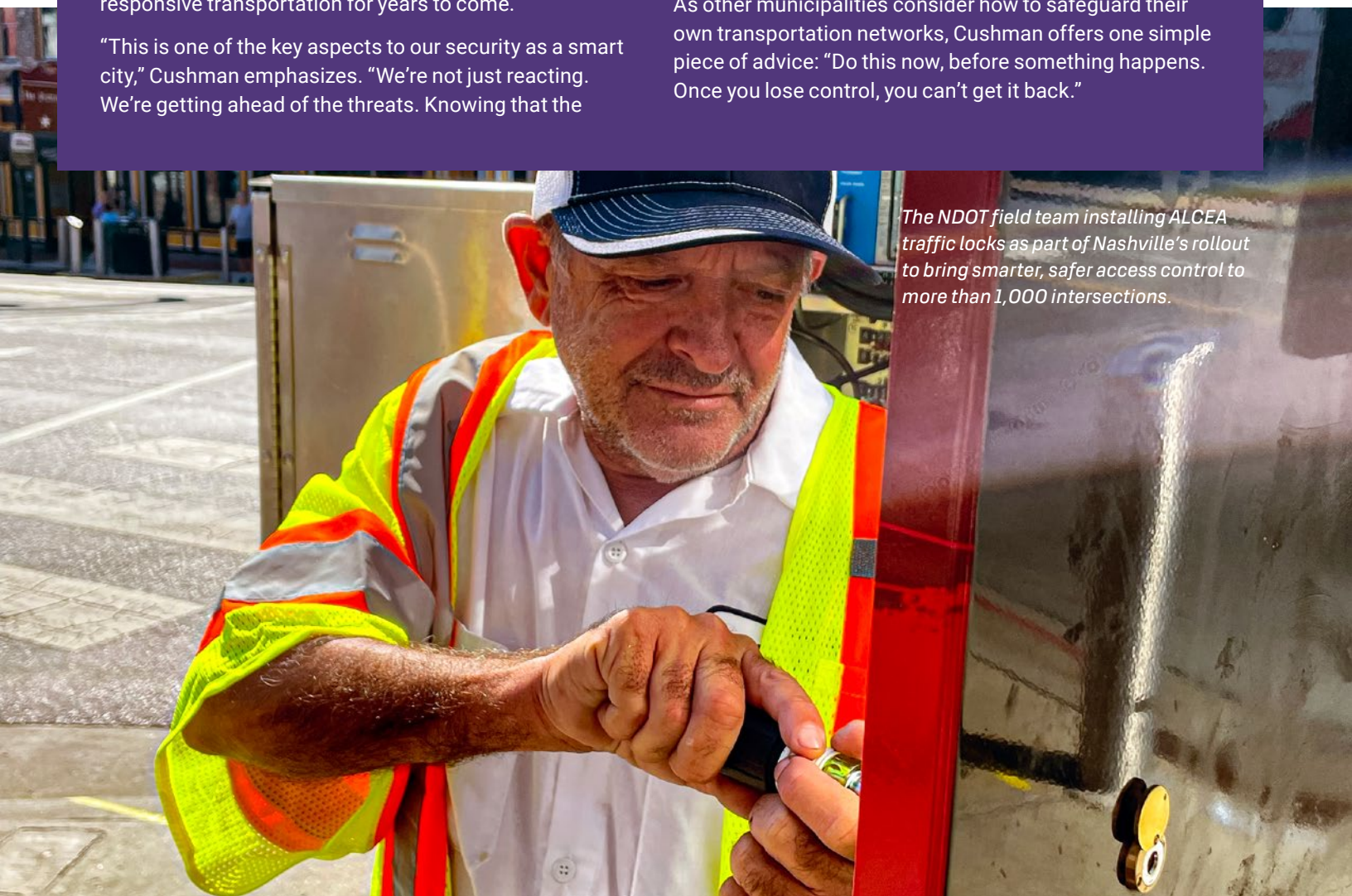
securing the city's smart future.

For a city whose new Traffic Management Center now rivals those of much larger metros, the stakes are high. The integration of physical security with Nashville's sophisticated traffic system makes this more than just a lock upgrade, it's part of a wider investment in intelligent, responsive transportation for years to come.

"This is one of the key aspects to our security as a smart city," Cushman emphasizes. "We're not just reacting. We're getting ahead of the threats. Knowing that the systems controlling traffic lights, cameras, and signals are protected means fewer outages, faster response to issues, and ultimately safer streets for everyone."

A Word to Other DOTs

As other municipalities consider how to safeguard their own transportation networks, Cushman offers one simple piece of advice: "Do this now, before something happens. Once you lose control, you can't get it back."



The NDOT field team installing ALCEA traffic locks as part of Nashville's rollout to bring smarter, safer access control to more than 1,000 intersections.



Installing the ALCEA traffic lock takes less than 10 minutes, giving Nashville a fast, cost-effective way to secure its critical roadside cabinets.

inside the CLIQ® system
smarter access, one key at a time.

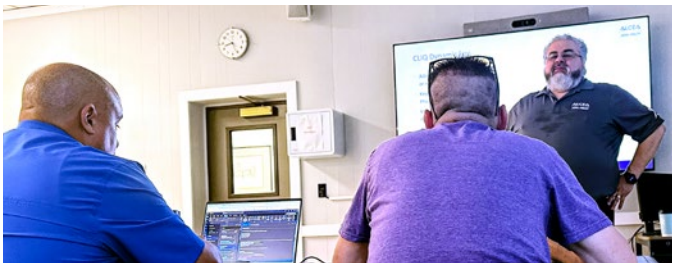
Behind every ALCEA 75481 Series lock is the ABLOY CLIQ® Manager Software, a secure platform that gives cities like Nashville total control of who can open what, when, and for how long. It also integrates with ALCEA's ALWIN Security Management Solution, which means cities can manage CLIQ locks, other security hardware, and related applications from a single interface, making security operations more efficient and connected.

In his training sessions with the Nashville team, ALCEA's Rick Armenta explained that each key is essentially a digital credential, like an ID badge with built-in security features.

"Every key is assigned to one person — an employee, a contractor, or a consultant — and every time they use it, it leaves an audit trail," Armenta said. "So there's no more sharing keys or wondering who got into what cabinet."

At its core, the CLIQ Manager system is flexible by design. Administrators can:

- Set up lock groups: for example, grouping all traffic cabinets on a major corridor or in a specific neighborhood.



ALCEA's Rick Armenta leads the initial CLIQ training session for Nashville DOT staff.

- Create access profiles for certain job roles, like contractors who only need access to a few intersections for a short period.
- Set validity periods so that keys expire after a set time if they're not updated. This helps ensure lost or misplaced keys can't be misused.

"Think of it like a countdown clock on each key," Armenta explained. "In Nashville, the plan is for technicians to re-sync keys weekly, while contractors might be required to do it more frequently. That way, the system stays up to date, and they get a fresh audit trail every time."

The city can also manage how keys are updated. Nashville is using dynamic keys that require the user to plug them into a wall-mounted programmer to renew access rights. In the future, they could add Bluetooth keys, which allow updates from the field through a mobile app.

Another major advantage? The locks don't require external power or batteries in the cabinet. "The key itself powers the lock," Armenta said. "So even if there's an outage, you can still open your cabinet as long as you have your key."

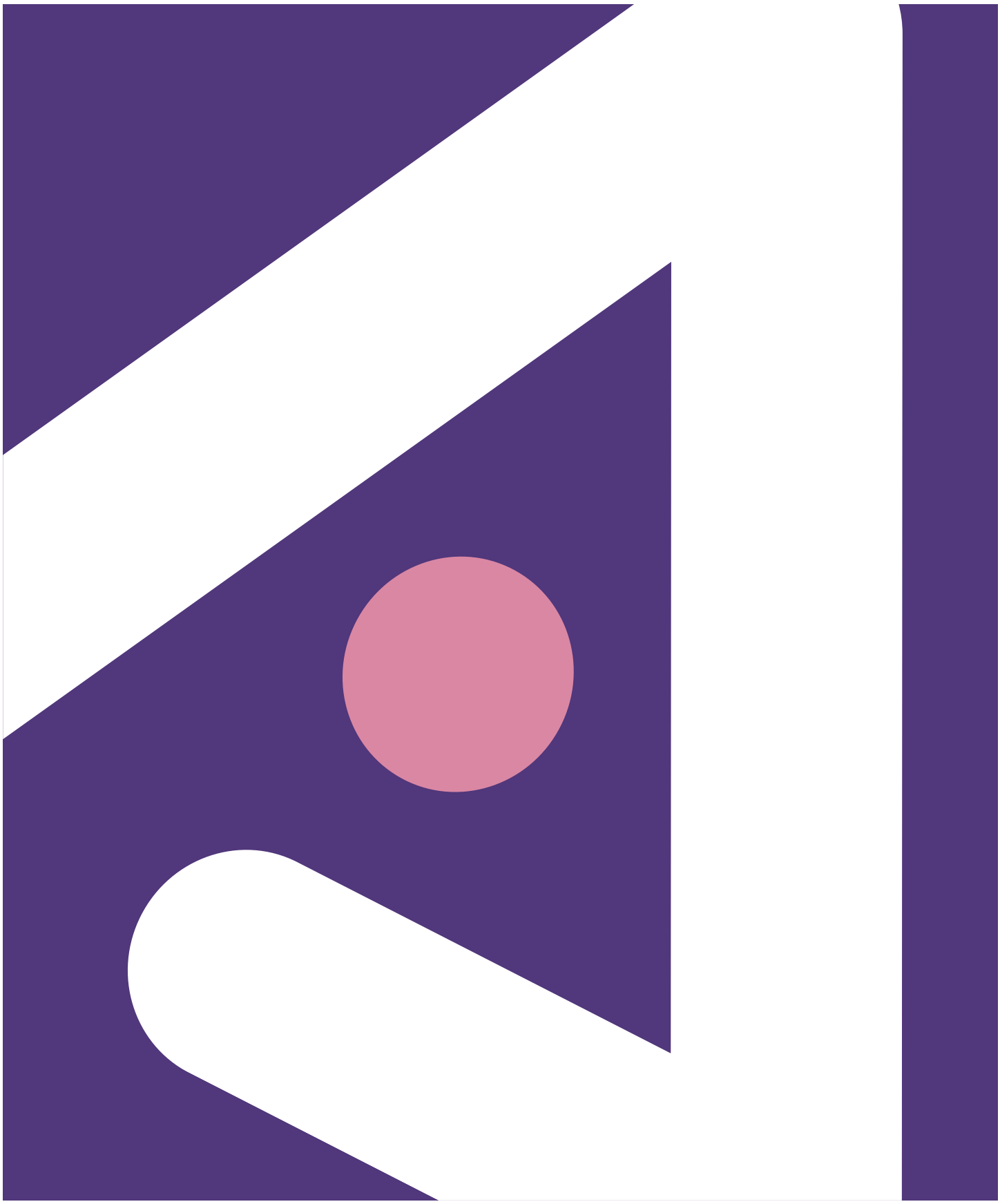
For cities balancing multiple crews, contractors, and a growing network of smart traffic infrastructure, the CLIQ Manager software turns everyday cabinet locks into intelligent access points and keeps accountability front and center.

As Armenta summed up to Nashville's team, "It's not just about locking the door. It's about knowing who went through it, and when."





The CLIQ key gives Nashville's team the flexibility of both mechanical and electronic access, combining high-security physical protection with smart, auditable control.



ALCEA specializes in protecting critical infrastructure globally, including energy, water, telecom, transportation, mining, oil, and gas. We provide comprehensive security solutions tailored to your unique needs, from access control and intrusion detection to key and video management. Our experienced specialists deliver customized, digitalized solutions that enhance efficiency, ensure compliance, and offer peace of mind.

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