In 1994, Keanu Reeves starred in this movie about the dangers of public transportation—and bombs! Reeves played a police officer who had angered a deranged ex-cop with an affinity for explosives, played by Dennis Hopper. Hopper plants a bomb on a public bus and set it to detonate if the bus’s speed ever dropped below 50 MPH. Anyone who has ever driven in LA traffic knows what a task it is to not only remain in motion, but to also stay at a relatively fast pace! Sandra Bullock’s character eventually takes over for the incapacitated bus driver while Reeves attempts to dismantle the bomb. The LA police start closing roads and diverting cars away from the bus, so Bullock can keep the bus above 50 MPH, but, without the proper monitoring technology, it’s an uphill battle.

For those in today’s fleet industry, you already know an easy solution to Speed’s problem: GPS. With a GPS solution, the police can track where the bus is, which route has the least amount of traffic and which roads should be closed well before the bus gets to them.

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off

In this John Hughes classic, everyone lives vicariously through Ferris Bueller during his unauthorized day off from high school. Ferris and his friends zip through Chicago in his friend Cameron’s dad’s Ferrari. Cameron tells Ferris from the get-go that his dad doesn’t let anyone go near his Ferrari, let alone let a teenager drive it around a major city.

While the dad’s Ferrari wouldn’t qualify as a regular fleet vehicle, he still could have benefited from today’s fleet management technology. With many fleet software systems, you can track mileage, fuel and driver behavior in one consolidated system. He would have been informed right away when someone took off with his most prized possession. Ferris’ day off would have ended before it even started!

The Dark Knight

Health Ledger gave an Oscar-winning performance in this Batman movie as the Joker, a maniacal, yet brilliant, terrorist of Gotham City. In the film’s opening scenes, the Joker orchestrates a bank robbery and eventually escapes with all of the money in a yellow school bus. The school bus breaks through the bank’s walls and exits through the same gaping hole, right into a line of other yellow school buses taking kids either to or from school. The Joker’s bus disappears into the hoard of other buses, making his escape a success.

As those in the fleet industry know, buses don’t just disappear and reappear. The Joker’s plan wouldn’t have panned out in the real world, for bus companies are typically equipped with a fleet management system, which tracks where their vehicles are and what they’re doing. Whoever was in charge of Gotham City’s school buses would immediately be able to tell which bus was just involved in a bank heist, and which were simply transporting kids from point A to point B.

The Town

Before he was slated to be the next Batman, Ben Affleck starred in The Town, a movie about a group of Boston bank robbers. After many conflicts with his girlfriend, his bank robbing partners and local law enforcement, Affleck realizes it’s time to skip town in order to avoid jail time for his crimes. As the police close in on him, Affleck dons a bus driver uniform, hijacks an empty public transportation bus and successfully escapers to Florida.

When you know about all of the management and monitoring technology that goes into public transportation, you know that Affleck’s escape plan shouldn’t have succeeded. A bus can’t just disappear into thin air, especially with a felon behind the wheel. GPS tracking and driver behavior monitoring would have picked up on the bus diverting from its scheduled route and speeding out of town and down the coast to Florida.

The Shining

This classic thriller gave a new meaning to the term “cabin fever”! Jack Nicholson, playing a man with severe writer’s block, is staying in a vacant hotel with his wife and son until the winter breaks. The hotel’s twisted past and the family’s complete isolation eventually get to Nicholson’s character, who snaps and tries to kill everyone. His wife tries frantically to escape with her son, but finds that Jack had destroyed the engine of their only escape vehicle.

Lone worker technology has greatly improved safety for people working in isolated situations. If the only available vehicle to Nicholson’s family was equipped with this technology, someone would have known immediately if it had been tampered with. When no one responded to their check-in call, reinforcement would have been sent to make sure everyone in the hotel was safe— and not running away from a crazy man with an ax.