

## Traffic Function and Responsibility

### 500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions and impaired drivers. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on collision data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume and traffic conditions. This department provides enforcement efforts toward violations, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in collision situations but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

### 500.2 TRAFFIC OFFICER DEPLOYMENT

Several factors are considered in the development of deployment schedules for officers of the Peoria Police Department. Information provided by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is a valuable resource for traffic collision occurrences and therefore officer deployment. Some of the factors for analysis include:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors

All officers assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of collision-causing violations during periods of increased incidence and at the locations of occurrence. All officers will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate, against violators. All officers shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially at locations where there is a high incidence of collisions.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones or special events.

### 500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any officer shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating officer overall performance. The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of collisions. Non-residents, active duty military and juvenile drivers shall not be given preferential treatment. (61.1.3.a) (61.1.3.b) (61.1.3.e)

- Observation: Generally speaking, the traffic section will be responsible for establishing stationary locations within the city where they may observe traffic violators and take enforcement action. Patrol officers may be assigned a special detail to assist at specific locations. Covert observation is discouraged, unless it serves a specific purpose. (61.1.6.b)

# Peoria Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Traffic Function and Responsibility*

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- Unmarked vehicles: Unmarked vehicles may be used to monitor traffic but with the exception of the aggressive driver vehicle, may not actually enforce traffic violations unless there are exigent circumstances to initiate a traffic stop. (61.1.6.c)
- Roadside safety checks: Roadside safety checks can be used for commercial vehicle inspections as a result of citizen complaints received in regards to commercial vehicle violations. These roadside safety checks must be conducted by officers who are commercial vehicle safety specialists and are certified by the Federal Highway Administration. The three following types of commercial vehicle inspections may be conducted at roadside safety checks. (61.1.6.d)
- Full North American Standards Inspection: Includes inspecting the brake system. This generally requires inspecting underneath the vehicle. Also includes checking the driver's paperwork.
- Walk Around: Includes inspecting visible brake components. Does not require inspecting under the vehicle. Also includes checking the driver's paperwork.
- Driver Only: Only includes items related to the driver (paperwork, seatbelt, etc.). This inspection generally would not include vehicle violations.
- Freeway Traffic Stops: It is the policy of the Peoria Police Department to discourage freeway traffic stops due to the inherent danger, which exists for the officers involved. (61.1.7.a)(61.1.7.b)(61.1.7.c)

#### **500.3.1 WARNINGS**

Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions should be considered in each situation and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant.

#### **500.3.2 TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

Traffic citations may be issued when an officer believes it is appropriate. It is essential that officers fully explain the rights and requirements imposed on motorists upon issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Officers should provide the following information at minimum:

- Explanation of the violation or charge
- Court appearance procedure, including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist
- Notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court
- The court contact information

#### **500.3.3 TRAFFIC CITATION COURT JURISDICTION**

An officer who issues a traffic citation shall ensure that the citation is properly directed to the court with jurisdiction in which the violation occurred (ARS § 28-1552 and ARS § 28-1558).

#### **500.3.4 PHYSICAL ARREST**

Physical arrest can be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses. These physical arrest cases usually deal with, but are not limited to (ARS § 28-121):

- Negligent homicide.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- Hit-and-run resulting in serious injury or death.
- Hit-and-run resulting in damage to any vehicle or property.

# Peoria Police Department

## Policy Manual

### *Traffic Function and Responsibility*

---

#### **500.3.5 DRIVER RE-EXAMINATION**

Driver re-examination: A driver re-examination request will be completed and forwarded to the Motor Vehicle Department when, based on an officer's judgment, a driver cannot exercise reasonable and ordinary care over a motor vehicle. (61.1.12)

#### **500.4 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS**

The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to reduce the danger to employees who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, construction vehicles and disaster recovery equipment (Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 23 CFR § 655.601).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic-related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the employee.

##### **500.4.1 REQUIRED USE**

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment (23 CFR § 634.3). Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, collision investigations, lane closures and while at disaster scenes, or any time high visibility is desirable. When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, officers should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as an officer.