Roanoke County Police Department
Related Departmental Policies

The Roanoke County Police Department does have policies specifically related to the expectations of officers when contacting drivers involved in speed-related offenses as well as the use of speed measurement devices.

Type of Directive	Number	Page
GENERAL ORDER	18.1.7	1-11
Subject		**Date**
Traffic Administration		02/08
Amends	**Rescinds**	
	18.1.6	

This policy is for Department use only and shall not apply in any criminal or civil proceedings. The Department policy should not be construed as a creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive will be the basis for Department administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the operation of the traffic component within the Department's Uniform Division.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Department to utilize the traffic function to plan, analyze, monitor, and coordinate the Department's traffic activities while enhancing the enforcement of state and local traffic laws.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Traffic Component

1. All uniformed officers of the Department will share the responsibility for the enforcement of traffic laws and regulations.

2. The Uniform Division Special Operations Sergeant will serve as the Department's Traffic Coordinator. The responsibilities of this assignment include, but are not limited to:

   a. supervision of the Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit,

   b. analysis of traffic crashes,

   c. analysis of traffic enforcement activities,

   d. implementation of selective enforcement techniques and procedures,

   e. deployment of traffic enforcement personnel,

   f. evaluation of selective traffic enforcement activities, and

   g. monitoring and coordinating the Department's traffic activities.

3. The Special Operations Unit Lieutenant is responsible for the supervision of the Traffic Coordinator and any related activities.

B. **Selective Traffic Enforcement Data Analysis**

1. The Traffic Coordinator will be responsible for the Department's traffic analysis function. This analysis will include:

   a. yearly compilation and review of traffic collision data,
   b. yearly compilation and review of traffic enforcement activities data,
   c. yearly comparison of collision data and enforcement activities data,
   d. yearly evaluation of selective traffic enforcement activities.

2. This report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police, Assistant Chiefs, Uniform Division Lieutenants and PSU.

3. As necessary, the Traffic Coordinator may request data for a specific period of time. These periodic reports are in addition to the annual report.

4. Analysis of traffic crash and traffic enforcement activities requires the review of all necessary traffic related records that include traffic crash data, traffic enforcement data, and roadway hazard reports provided by:

   a. the Records Unit,

   b. the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and

   c. other sources as necessary.

5. The Traffic Coordinator may assign traffic direction and control locations based on temporary or emergency situations.

C. **Speed-Measuring Devices**

1. A Platoon Sergeant, or a designee, is responsible for the programmed maintenance and proper care and upkeep of the Department's radar unit.

2. Radar equipment specifications will follow the guidelines set by Virginia Division of Purchasing and Supply.

3. Sworn personnel will follow the operational procedures established in the manufacturers manual for each specific radar.

4. Initial operator training and certification will be provided during academy training and officers will perform 40 hours of in-field operation.

5. The Platoon Sergeant, or a designee is responsible for:

   a. inspection of the radar units at least once every six months,

   b. ensuring the radar tuning forks are calibrated in accordance with guidelines established by the Code of Virginia,

   c. maintaining the radar units in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, and

   d. maintenance of any operating manuals and documentation of:

      (1) calibrations,
      (2) service, and
      (3) repairs.

C. **Duties**

1. Traffic Officers' duties will vary throughout the year to accomplish assigned tasks. Activities will be established to make the Traffic Unit more effective in accomplishing their goals.

2. While the Traffic Unit is devoted primarily to enforcement and investigative duties, the assigned officers will also be aware of the need to provide assistance to motorists. This responsibility would include assisting persons with vehicular failure, persons needing direction or assistance, and reporting missing or malfunctioning traffic devices.

3. The primary responsibility of the Traffic Enforcement Unit is the enforcement of traffic laws and regulations. This may be accomplished by employing selective enforcement techniques.

4. The Traffic Enforcement Unit will participate in selective enforcement activities which includes but is not limited to:

   a. speed enforcement,
   b. habitual offenders,
   c. drivers with revoked/suspended licenses,
   d. DUI violations,
   e. areas with high crash levels,
   f. parking violations, and

Type of Directive	Number	Page
GENERAL ORDER	18.2.8	1-22
Subject		**Date**
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT		05/08
Amends	**Rescinds**	
	18.2.7	

This policy is for Department use only and shall not apply in any criminal or civil proceedings. The Department policy should not be construed as a creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive will be the basis for Department administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish operational guidelines so that the enforcement of State laws and County ordinances governing motor vehicles is consistently and fairly applied.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that officers be guided by principles of reasonableness, consistency, and impartiality in their enforcement of applicable laws. The Department expects officers to utilize sound professional judgement in fulfilling their duties as they relate to traffic enforcement. Officers are reminded that the Department's goal in traffic enforcement is achieving compliance with applicable laws. The Department's expectation relative to traffic enforcement emphasizes a qualitative approach to enforcement and discourages enforcement based solely on quantitative measures.

III. PROCEDURE- GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

A. General Information

1. The immediate aim of traffic related operations will be conformance to applicable statutes through appropriate enforcement techniques.

2. The decision regarding the proper enforcement option (warning, summons, or physical arrest) is at the officer's discretion and should be guided by the total situation considering the seriousness of the offense and any extenuating circumstances.

3. Officers will target as the highest enforcement priority those violations which:

   a. actively endanger life and property and/or

   b. involve reckless disregard of traffic regulations.

without License" (COV 46.2-300), unless they possess a valid driver's license from another state.

3. Speeding

a. When deciding on appropriate enforcement action, the officer should consider any contributing factors, to include:

(1) speed of the violator,
(2) weather conditions,
(3) traffic volume,
(4) presence of pedestrians,
(5) driver statements,
(6) citizen complaints,
(7) frequency of traffic crashes, and
(8) speed as the contributing factor in the frequency of traffic crashes.