


Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual		Standard Operating Procedure
Effective Date July 6, 2022		APD.SOP.4070 Bicycle Patrol
Applicable To: All employees		Review Due: 2026
Approval Authority: Interim Chief Darin Schierbaum		
Signature: Signed by DS		Date Signed: 7/5/2022

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1. PURPOSE

To establish community-oriented, anti-crime bicycle patrols within the Atlanta Police Department.

2. POLICY

The Atlanta Police Department shall use all available resources to meet the challenges of community-oriented policing, and to reduce crime and its impact on the community using bicycle patrols.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Field Operations Division (FOD) commanders shall be responsible for implementing and administering the bicycle patrol program. FOD shall maintain a list of active bicycle patrols throughout the city.

3.2 The Chief Administrative Office (CAO) commanders shall arrange for the acquisition, repair, and replacement of bicycles, uniforms, and other related equipment.

3.3 All commanders shall ensure compliance with this directive. They shall manage their component of the bicycle patrol program as outlined in this SOP. This shall include the selection of personnel, equipment, and the designation of patrol areas and hours. Each commander shall designate a supervisor to be in charge of the bicycle patrol officers. If the zone does not have a bicycle patrol supervisor, then the zone watch supervisor shall oversee the bicycle patrol officers.

3.4 The Training Academy shall develop a training curriculum, with assistance from the bicycle subject matter experts.

3.5 The bicycle patrol supervisor or the zones watch supervisor shall direct and monitor the actions of all personnel under his or her supervision and ensure proper compliance with all



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parts of this directive

- 3.6 The bicycle patrol officer shall adhere to this directive and operate their bicycle in a safe manner, take proper care of the equipment and practice community-oriented policing in the execution of their duties.
4. ACTION
- 4.1 Selection
(CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3b)
- 4.1.1 Each section commander shall select the sworn employees for their bicycle patrol. The physical fitness of the officers and their ability to interact with the community in a positive manner must be primary considerations in the selection process (see APD.SOP.2101 "Specialized and Temporary Assignments").
- 4.1.2 The zones, the Airport Section, and other designated assignments may have a bicycle patrol. The size of each unit and the selection of personnel shall be determined by the section commander. Section commanders can designate special equipment required by their unit with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 4.1.3 All sworn employees selected for the section's bicycle patrol shall have completed the bicycle training program prior to assignment (see Section 4.3).
- 4.2 Deployment
(CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3a)
- 4.2.1 Bicycle patrol officers shall concentrate on problems specified by the section commander.
- 4.2.2 Bicycle patrol officers shall usually be assigned to patrols of at least two officers but may patrol alone at the section commander's discretion.
- 4.2.3 Bicycle patrol officers shall be assigned to regular patrol areas and are encouraged to establish relationships with the members of the community. Bicycles patrol officers shall attend community meetings and support community projects as directed by the section commander.
- 4.3 Training
- 4.3.1 The Training Academy shall assist in developing a training curriculum that teaches physical conditioning to reduce the risk of injury or death to bicycle patrol officers. It shall also emphasize positive interaction with the public. The training shall be modeled after the International Police Mountain Bike Association's Police Cyclist Training Course.
- 4.3.2 The training curriculum shall emphasize bicycle safety, defensive riding tactics, and how to maintain a high level of physical fitness through proper diet, exercise, and rest.
- 4.3.3 The training curriculum modeled after the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) must be taught by a certified IPMBA Instructor. Atlanta Police personnel are eligible to attend the IPMBA Instructor Course after they have completed the basic Bicycle Patrol Course and have assisted a certified IPMBA Instructor with at least three (3) basic bicycle patrol courses. Atlanta Police personnel wanting to attend the IPMBA Instructor Course must be



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recommended by a certified IMPBA instructor.

- 4.4 Uniforms and Equipment
(CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3d)
 - 4.4.1 All uniform and equipment items for the bicycle patrol unit shall be designated and approved by the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - 4.4.2 Bicycle patrol officers shall wear Department-approved and American National Standards Institute (ANSI), or Snell Memorial Foundation (SNELL) approved safety helmets and shatter resistant eye protection at all times while mounted on the bicycle.
 - 4.4.3 The bicycle patrol uniform shall only be worn when performing duties as a member of the bicycle patrol unless permission is granted in writing by the section commander.
 - 4.4.4 Bicycle patrol officers shall wear protective body armor at all times.
 - 4.4.5 Bicycle patrol officers shall ensure that their bicycle is secured with a lock when away from the bike and when it is practical to do so.
 - 4.4.6 Bicycles shall be equipped with all the minimum state law required reflectors on the front and shall emit white light which shall be visible from at least 300 feet and a taillight which shall emit red light and visible from 300 feet shall be used for night patrols. [O.C.G.A. § 40-6-296 (a)]
 - 4.4.7 Traffic vests shall be carried in bicycle bags for emergency use such as in the rain, during those hours of lowlights or darkness, for increased visibility and directing traffic.
- 4.5 Equipment Maintenance
(CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3c)
 - 4.5.1 Bicycle patrol officers shall inspect their bicycle prior to pulling into service for signs of damage and to correct minor problems. Any damage or maintenance problems shall be noted on the back of the Daily Activity Report (Form APD 607).
 - 4.5.2 Bicycle patrol officers shall limit their maintenance to that described below. A trained maintenance specialist designated by the Chief Administrative Officer shall perform any necessary maintenance other than described below:
 1. Check the tire pressure before each shift to ensure tires are properly inflated. Use a tire gauge to ensure proper tire inflation. Inspect tires for damage, defects and remove any glass, thorns, or other debris that could cause flat tires.
 2. Replace the inner tubes on flat tires after proper training by a maintenance specialist and with the proper tools.
 3. Ensure that both wheels are running straight or true, and each part is properly tightened. If the wheels are not running straight, a trained maintenance specialist shall service the bicycle.
 4. Ensure that the brakes are making contact with the rims of the wheels and that the brakes stop the bicycle in a safe manner. [O.C.G.A. § 40-6-296(b)]



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5. Replace the chain on the gears if it slips off.
 6. Clean the bicycles with water and clean sponges. Officers shall avoid using high-pressure hoses, steam cleaners, etc.
 7. Apply lubricants as needed to the bicycle once fully trained by the maintenance specialists. Only lubricants approved for use by the appointed maintenance specialists shall be used.
- 4.5.3 Bicycle patrol officers or watch supervisors shall closely monitor each bicycle's use to ensure that each bicycle receives a regular inspection and maintenance as determined by the maintenance specialists.
- 4.5.4 Bicycle patrol officers or watch supervisors shall maintain a monthly inspection checklist for each bicycle to ensure it is properly equipped and functional for each tour of duty. The checklist shall include the following:
1. Check tire pressure – always maintain within a range of 55 – 65 psi.
 2. Check chain – ensure proper lubrication.
 3. Pedal cranks backwards and checks for stiff or bent links in the drive chain.
 4. Squeeze front brake and rock bike forward and backward to check for loose headset.
 5. Check crank bolts for proper tightness.
 6. Spin both wheels to check for trueness.
 7. Check front and rear brake pads for wear.
 8. Ensure that both brake and shift cables are in good condition and are capped on the ends.
 9. Check front and rear brake levers and ensure that they engage firmly without bottoming out on bars.
 10. Check all quick releases to ensure that they are safely and securely engaged.
- 4.6 Safety and Riding Techniques
- 4.6.1 Bicycle patrol officers shall observe state traffic law regarding the safe use of bicycles. Officers shall obey all traffic signals and ride with caution and courtesy; however, there are times when you can justifiably disobey the law while driving a police car, those same justifications should be present before you do so on a police bike. Extra caution should be used while operating police bikes that are not equipped with emergency lights and siren. [O.C.G.A. § 40-6-291]
- 4.6.2 When practical, bicycle patrol officers shall follow lane-positioning rules on public highways and ride as close as practicable to the right edge of the road. Riding double is acceptable for safe bicycle operations and communications but riding single file shall be the norm conducive to better traffic flow. Riding on the left side of the road is acceptable when making a left turn or to avoid hazards to safe cycling. [O.C.G.A. § 40-6-294(a)]
- 4.6.3 Bicycle patrol officers shall monitor themselves and one another for heat exhaustion and



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drink water regularly while riding. Officers should consume eight ounces of water for every hour of physical exertion.

- 4.6.4 Bicycle patrol officers shall comply with all Departmental regulations, rules, and directives regarding safety when handling calls.
- 4.6.5 Bicycle patrol officers shall not be required to ride in temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or above 95 degrees Fahrenheit for officer safety.
- 4.6.6 Bicycle patrol officers shall not be required to ride during times of heavy or prolonged rain, lightning, snow, sleet, high winds, high humidity, or when road or weather conditions are perceived as dangerous by a supervisor.
- 4.6.7 Bicycle patrol officers shall carry and use police whistles as warning devices. If worn around the neck, breakaway lanyards shall be used.

5. DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Community-oriented policing: focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships. The community-policing model balances reactive responses to calls for service with proactive problem solving centered on the causes of crime and disorder. Community policing requires police and citizens to join as partners in the course of both identifying and effectively addressing these issues.

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.4070 "Bicycle Patrol," effective September 15, 2018

7. REFERENCES

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) 6th Edition Standard 41.1.3a, b, c, and d

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), www.cops.usdoj.gov, "What is community policing?" (Definition)

O.C.G.A. § 40-6-291 "Bicycles and Traffic Laws"

O.C.G.A. § 40-6-294 "Operating bicycle on the right side of roadway"

O.C.G.A. § 40-6-296 "Bicycle Equipment"

Complete Guide to Police Cycling, International Police Mountain Bike Association

Effective Cycling, John Forester, League of American Bicyclists

8. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- 8.1 Section 4.6.6 added.