



**Lakewood Police Department  
Policy and Procedure**

**Policy Number: PP- 4300  
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

**Effective Date:  
07/17/2025**

**A. Policy**

The traffic enforcement objective of the department shall be to reduce traffic collisions and injuries and to facilitate the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through the public's voluntary compliance with traffic regulations. The department seeks to achieve this objective through a combination of education and enforcement.

The department seeks to educate the public regarding traffic regulations through programs aimed at exposing specific problems, by publishing traffic collision and injury statistics, and by giving notice and warnings of changes in regulations prior to taking enforcement action.

The department shall take enforcement action upon the detection of an illegal and potentially hazardous act without regard for such factors as attitude, intent, or frivolous excuse. Enforcement action may consist of a warning, citation, or physical arrest, which shall be based upon applicable state statutes and City ordinances.

The primary responsibility for enforcing traffic laws shall be shared by all uniformed personnel and such enforcement action may consist of a warning, citation, application for complaint, or physical arrest.

Traffic violation enforcement is one of the many routine tasks performed by agents, but for violators it frequently is an emotionally traumatic experience. In many cases, this is the only contact that a person has with our department. Agents shall be aware of these conditions and shall strive to make each contact educational and to leave the violator with the impression that the agent has performed a necessary task in a professional and friendly manner.

**B. Procedure**

1. Agents do not have sufficient information to advise citizens of what their fines might be. Therefore, agents may advise citizens who inquire about fines that if they appear in court, the court will make an individual determination in each case, and that fines are decided accordingly.
2. If citizens do not desire (or are not required) to appear in court on the matter, they may be advised to appear at the Violations Bureau to ascertain the amount of the fine.
3. Unless the traffic regulation violated is one unique to the Lakewood area, no immunity shall be granted because a person is a nonresident. Non-residency shall not be sufficient in itself to require detention or the posting of bail bond to ensure appearance in court.
4. Street parking is restricted in various areas of the city to ensure fair access to parking and to expedite the flow of vehicular traffic. All existing parking regulations shall be enforced with reasonableness and impartiality in all areas of the city.
5. Any tendency of motorists to knowingly violate traffic laws shall be deterred by visible, moving patrol and the number of traffic collisions is correspondingly reduced. However, when there is an unusual

or continuing enforcement problem at a particular location, agents may park in a conspicuous location and observe traffic.

6. Agents may use unmarked police vehicles or covert stationary observation at particular locations for the purpose of traffic enforcement.
7. The department compiles and reviews traffic enforcement activities data and visual surveys to determine by location, time, and day of week violations occur, and which violations are causing accidents. Based upon the information thus obtained, the department deploys its personnel to those specific areas to observe violations and to take enforcement action. In addition, when the department receives complaints of a specific traffic problem in a particular area, it specifically assigns personnel to investigate and take necessary enforcement action. Agents shall attempt to correct roadway and roadside hazards as soon as possible by correcting the situation or causing the notification of the proper agency. Road design or defect problems shall be documented on a memorandum and forwarded to Traffic Engineering or the proper agency via the Patrol Support Coordinator.
8. Juveniles who violate traffic laws shall be given no special consideration. Agents may use their discretion when dealing with juveniles.
9. Colorado Legislators while attending sessions of their respective houses or committees thereof, and while traveling to and from same are protected from arrest in all cases except treason or felonies. A traffic or criminal summons shall not be issued at the time of the alleged offense. The person shall be detained only long enough to verify their identity. The agent shall then contact the City Attorney's Office to obtain proper service of the summons.
10. It is the policy of the United States Department of State that Foreign diplomats who violate traffic laws should be cited. The "issuance of a traffic citation is not considered a violation of the immunities to which members of a mission may be entitled." A traffic citation may be issued to any driver with diplomatic or consular status who fails to observe traffic laws and regulations. In DUI cases or other situations where a diplomatic or consular officer is considered a danger to himself or others, the Agent may take the official to the station and/or arrange for transportation home.
  - a. A person claiming immunity from arrest is required to produce satisfactory identification or evidence that they are entitled to custody handling restrictions such as no vehicle/property search or seizure, no towing except to remove from obstructing traffic or endangering public safety; no handcuffs; or no custody. Law enforcement and judicial authorities should contact the U.S. Department of State for general advice on any matter concerning diplomatic or consular personnel.
  - b. Federal license plates issued by the U.S. Department of State are not the property of the diplomat or of a diplomatic mission and remain the property of the State Department at all times. As such, they must be surrendered to the U.S. Department of State when recalled. Similarly, these license plates may not be transferred from the vehicle to which they were assigned by the U.S. Department of State without the authorization of its Office of Foreign Missions.
  - c. In cases where the officer at the scene has determined that the vehicle is being operated without insurance and/or has verified with the U.S. Department of State that the vehicle bearing U.S. Department of State license plates is not the vehicle for which those plates were intended, the Department may request that the local law enforcement agency impound the plates and return them to the Department. Such plate seizure should only be upon the request of the U.S. Department of State. Subsequent detention of the vehicle must conform to the guidelines above.

In all cases involving a diplomatic or consular officer refer also to PP-4003 and PP-4009.

11. The traffic enforcement program shall include both education of the public and enforcement of applicable statutes and ordinances so that the causes of accidents involving motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians are reduced.
12. No agent shall use RADAR as a traffic enforcement tool until they have obtained department recognized certification. The department will recognize certification under either of the following circumstances.
  - a. Upon completion of a certified RADAR course sponsored by this department and an approved amount of personal RADAR operation.
  - b. Upon completion of any other certified RADAR course with a minimum of 50 hours of personal RADAR operation. The above courses will require trainees to demonstrate their competence with each RADAR device. The operational procedures, proper care and maintenance, and testing shall be according to the manufacturer's operator's manual. The course must include visual speed estimation if not included in a LIDAR course.

The Patrol Support Coordinator shall be responsible for the maintenance of RADAR equipment, tuning fork maintenance, tuning fork certification, and maintenance and calibration records. The Training Unit Technician shall maintain certification records of those employees authorized to operate RADAR.

13. No agent shall use LIDAR as a traffic enforcement tool until they have obtained department recognized certification. The department will recognize certification under either of the following circumstances.
  - a. Upon completion of a certified LIDAR course sponsored by this department and an approved amount of personal LIDAR operation.
  - b. Upon completion of any other certified LIDAR course. The agent will be required to demonstrate competency with each LIDAR device. The operational procedures, proper care and maintenance, and testing shall be according to the manufacturer's operators manual. The course must include visual speed estimation if not included in a RADAR course.

The Patrol Support Coordinator shall be responsible for the maintenance of LIDAR equipment and calibration records. The Training Unit Technician shall maintain certification records of those employees authorized to operate LIDAR.

14. In addition to the use of traffic RADAR/LIDAR devices for the measurement of speed, agents may utilize the following:
  - a. Patrol vehicle speedometers to pace suspected violators. Agents should maintain a constant or opening distance between vehicles in determining violator speed. Patrol vehicles used to pace violators should have their speedometers calibrated by a certified RADAR operator as soon as possible following the issuance of a summons. When a violator is clocked at a hazardous speed level, it is not necessary for the patrol vehicle to be calibrated at the same speed. It is recommended that RADAR calibration at three lesser speed levels be used.
  - b. Devices may be utilized for time/distance speed calculations. Operators of such devices shall have received training and certification prior to use of the device for traffic enforcement.

15. Police agents who contact drivers that have had their driving privileges denied, suspended, or revoked by the Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, shall adhere to arrest standards contained in the Department Manual when determining whether or not to incarcerate the violator or issue a summons and release.

NEXT:

[PP 4301 Traffic Collision Response](#)

[PP 4302 Private Property Accident Reporting](#)

[PP 4303 Accident Alert On-Line Collision Reporting](#)

[PP 4304 Traffic Collisions Involving Damage to Public Utilities](#)

[PP 4305 Traffic Collisions Involving City Vehicles and On-Duty Employees](#)

[PP 4306 Accident Scene Control](#)

[PP 4307 Traffic Control Safety](#)

[PP 4308 Traffic Direction](#)

[PP 4309 Point and Manual Traffic Control](#)

[PP 4310 Manual Traffic Control and the Use of Temporary Control Devices](#)