



WRITTEN DIRECTIVE	No. FO21-0801	Page: 1 of 6
	Effective Date:	09-28-21
	Supersedes/ Amends:	FO15-0801
	Reference:	
Subject: TRAFFIC PATROL TECHNIQUES		



I. Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for use of basic traffic patrol procedures and strategies to aid in the traffic enforcement role of the Field Operations Bureau.

II. Policy

It shall be the policy of the Field Operations Bureau to implement patrol techniques and strategies designed to effectively enforce traffic laws and regulations.

III. Procedure

61.1.6 A

A. CONDUCTING VISIBLE TRAFFIC PATROL

1. The patrol officer, at his or her discretion and taking into account staffing needs, will conduct visible traffic patrol, either mobile or stationary.
2. An officer will normally select areas for concentrated patrol based on knowledge of his or her assigned patrol service area and potential traffic safety concerns, including:
 - a. areas statistically high in motor vehicle accidents;
 - b. areas where citizen complaints have been received regarding violations;
 - c. road hazards or potentially dangerous conditions at certain locations;
and
 - d. other pertinent factors.
3. Field supervisors may address traffic problems in specific areas (as determined through complaints received, analysis of traffic data, or other means) by directing:
 - a. increased visible traffic patrol; and/or

- b. establishment of stationary or moving traffic monitoring initiatives.

4. Routine visible patrol:

- a. Officers shall operate patrol vehicles in accordance with existing laws and Lynchburg Police Department directives.
- b. Officers should always drive patrol vehicles with exemplary driving behavior.
- c. Visible patrol by officers may take any of the following forms:
 - 1) mobile and stationary patrol enforcement, at the officers' discretion, within the bounds of an assigned area;
 - 2) mobile patrol enforcement concentrated along a particular section of highway; and
 - 3) directed patrol involving mobile or stationary enforcement especially targeted toward:
 - a) a preset location of limited size; or
 - b) violations of predetermined type(s), specific to that area.

61.1.5 B

5. Fixed location observation and enforcement:

- a. Stationary traffic posts may be used as a means to combat chronic traffic enforcement problems at specific locations.
- b. In those areas where a stationary observation post is necessary, officers shall park their vehicles in such a manner that vehicle traffic flow is not impeded.

61.1.6 C

B. UNMARKED VEHICLES AND COVERT PATROL

- 1. Unmarked police vehicles may be used for patrol and traffic enforcement purposes only with the approval of a supervisor.
- 2. All unmarked police vehicles used for traffic enforcement will be equipped with both emergency lights and siren.
- 3. Covert off-street observation or radar operation (such as behind billboards, buildings, or other cover) may be conducted:
 - a. as deemed necessary by officers; and

- b. on privately owned property only with the prior permission of the property owner, lessee or occupant.

61.1.5, 61.1.9**C. Speed Measuring Devices (SMD)**

1. Officers utilizing SMD must be in uniform and be displaying their Badge of Authority (Code of Virginia 46.2-882).
2. SMD may be used in marked or unmarked police vehicles.
3. SMD enforcement should normally be emphasized in areas where traffic speed has been identified as a consistent factor in motor vehicle accident occurrence and/or citizen complaints.
4. As in other forms of stationary or mobile enforcement, officers will operate SMD in such a manner as to not inhibit the safe, unobstructed flow of traffic.

61.1.9 F

5. Prior to utilizing SMD for enforcement purposes, officers will be trained in the proper use of SMD systems currently maintained by the department.
6. Officers operating SMD must be thoroughly familiar with both the SMD equipment and the area in which it is used:

61.1.9 A

- a. SMD equipment maintained by the Lynchburg Police Department will meet equipment requirement specifications as stated in section 46.2-882 of the Code of Virginia.
- b. Operator's manuals for the SMD systems in current use will be readily available.
- c. The officer must be prepared to establish in court that the SMD was operated properly.
 - 1) The SMD will be installed in the patrol vehicle according to operator's manual instructions.
 - 2) Operation of the SMD will be in accordance with operator's manual directions.
 - 3) Prior to use, SMD accuracy will be checked according to operator's manual directions by means of:
 - a) an internal calibration test;
 - b) tuning fork tests; and (if applicable)

- c) a moving calibration test (if applicable).
- 4) In addition, the SMD's internal calibration test will be conducted after each SMD-related vehicle stop.
- 5) Accuracy tests and enforcement data may be documented by means of a *SMD Activity Log*.
- d. The officer must thoroughly understand the effective range and features of the SMD used so that his or her visual observations can support speed meter readings.
- e. The locations of area speed limit signs, pedestrian crosswalks, traffic hazards, etc. should be noted for use in court testimony.
- 7. Officers should document pertinent factual information regarding each violation, including the following:
 - a. the time of the violation;
 - b. license and description of the target vehicle;
 - c. the location of the target vehicle on activation of the SMD display;
 - d. the indicated speed of the target vehicle and any corroborating observations;
 - e. the identity of the vehicle operator; and
 - f. any pertinent statements made by the vehicle operator.

61.1.9 C**8. SMD maintenance**

- a. Officers using SMD will be responsible for:
 - 1) checking the unit for missing or damaged components;
 - 2) ensuring that the SMD is kept clean and dry during use; and
 - 3) reporting any missing, damaged or malfunctioning SMD components to their immediate supervisor prior to the end of that duty tour:
 - a) Such report will be in Memorandum format, which the supervisor will forward to the Division Captain.

- b) The supervisor will forward a copy to the Memorandum to the Field Support Division Lieutenant.
- c) Nonfunctional SMD will be returned to the Field Support Division Lieutenant.

61.1.9 D

- b. SMD tuning fork calibration will be factory checked:
 - 1) every six months, at the direction of the assigned SMD Equipment Coordinators; or
 - 2) as directed by the Field Operations Bureau II Captain.

61.1.9 E

- c. Certificates of factory calibration for each SMD will be filed as follows:
 - 1) calibration records and certificate originals will be maintained by the Administrative Division of the Investigations and Administration Bureau; and
 - 2) copies of current calibration certificates will be readily accessible to Field Operations Bureau personnel.
- 9. Whenever practical, officers should secure the SMD antenna inside the vehicle when the vehicle will be unattended for a prolonged period of time.

D. PACING VEHICLES TO DETERMINE SPEED

- 1. Prior to using a police vehicle for pacing the speed of a suspected traffic violator, the officer will ensure that the police vehicle speedometer has been calibrated.
 - a. Police vehicles will be calibrated every six months under the direction of the Field Support Division Lieutenant.
 - b. Police vehicle calibration will be documented by means of a *Vehicle Calibration Sheet*, a copy of which shall be placed in each vehicle.
- 2. The officer will have a copy of the calibration sheet available for use in courtroom testimony (Code of Virginia 46.2-942).
- 3. A target vehicle should be paced for a minimum distance of two tenths of a mile, when possible.

Due to varying traffic conditions, the interval maintained between the police and target vehicles will be left to the officer's discretion, although:

- a. the interval must remain constant once pacing has begun; and
 - b. the target vehicle must remain in clear view at all times during pacing.
4. Officers are authorized to disregard the posted speed limit while following another vehicle for the purpose of determining its speed (Code of Virginia 46.2-920).

Original Signed

Major K.R. Edwards, Deputy Chief
Field Operations Bureau

September 28, 2021

Date