




City of Manassas Police Department

General Duty Manual



Effective Date: 03-20-2005	GENERAL ORDER	Number: 08-12
Subject: Traffic Engineering		
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Accreditation Standards: 61.3.1	By Authority Of:  Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police	Total Pages: 2

PURPOSE:

To establish the general philosophy of the Department's activities in support of traffic engineering.

POLICY:

Close coordination and cooperation among the Department, traffic engineering authorities, and the Public Works and Street Departments is essential to the maintenance and improvement of a safe and efficient traffic system in the City.

DISCUSSION:

Although traffic engineering is not solely, or even directly, a law enforcement function, the Department has the unique opportunity and responsibility to contribute to traffic engineering. The compilation and analysis of traffic law enforcement and traffic accident management data, as well as information obtained in providing basic traffic services to the public, provides an excellent base for identifying traffic engineering problems.

Elimination of traffic engineering problems also is in the best interest of law enforcement, and of the community at large. Improvements in traffic engineering can cause a reduction in traffic accidents, and often a reduction in traffic law violations. The Department recognizes its unique opportunity and responsibility to contribute to improving traffic engineering in the City.

PROCEDURE:

I. Responsibilities

- A. The Department works with other traffic engineering authorities to:
 1. Review collected traffic enforcement and accident related data relevant to identify engineering problems and solutions.
 2. When necessary conduct special traffic surveys and studies, as appropriate, to investigate potential problems further.
 3. As necessary prepare special reports, and make recommendations concerning efficient use of traffic control devices, new or revised laws or ordinances, or other engineering solutions / improvements.
- B. The Traffic Services Unit has the primary responsibility for the compilation and analysis of data pertaining to the traffic engineering function.
- C. The Chief of Police and the Traffic Services Supervisor serve on the City's Transportation Safety Commission.

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II. Compilation, Analysis and Transmittal of Traffic Engineering – Related Information

- A. The Department routinely acquires information from various types of traffic related incidents. The principal relevance of this information to police operations lies in its applications to traffic law enforcement and police traffic services in general. However, much of this information also has important implications for engineering problems and solutions. Some of the most important traffic engineering information falls into three categories:
 1. Citizen notifications.
 2. Traffic accident data.
 3. Traffic law enforcement data.
- B. Repair to existing traffic control devices, such as signs, signals or City right of way is initiated by reporting the problem to the PSCC. The PSCC then contacts the Public Works Dispatcher to report the problem as soon as practicable. Members may initiate this process based on complaints (when confirmed) from citizens, or direct observation of problems.
- C. Officers who observe traffic situations that may be improved by engineering authorities (but may not require immediate action) should forward their suggestions to the Director of Public Works through the appropriate chain of command.
- D. The Department collects and analyzes engineering related data as part of its regular studies of traffic accident locations and traffic enforcement data. When analysis tends to indicate possible engineering deficiencies, the Traffic Services Supervisor notifies the Commander of Patrol Services of the finding and any engineering recommendations. Based on the situation, recommendations and other factors the Director of Public Works and / or the Chairman of the Staff Transportation Committee are notified so that appropriate action may be taken.
- E. Any request from outside agencies to conduct a traffic survey must receive the approval of the Traffic Services Supervisor, who coordinates the Department's response.

Attachments: N/A

Index as: Traffic Engineering.
Traffic Analysis.

References: N/A