


STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 04/26/2024
	Title: Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Law Enforcement	No. 4.12
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 10-11-2018
	Reference: 2.5.14j History: 10-13-21	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the enforcement of traffic laws regarding bicycle operation and pedestrians.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to address and enforce if necessary violations of bicycle and pedestrian law in the interest of public safety.

PROCEDURE:

Stratford Police Officers may enforce Connecticut State Statutes, or town ordinance regarding bicycle operation as well as pedestrian use of the highway.

Police Officers involved in this type of enforcement shall be courteous and act in a professional manner, utilizing discretion, and keeping in mind that the goal of this policy is to reduce accidents and injuries.

Bicycle Enforcement

Operators under 17 years of age:

- Officers may stop violators and issue a verbal warning
- Officer may obtain the violator's name, address, date of birth and name
- Officer may notify the parents of the police contact and file an incident report. A juvenile referral may be completed at this point.

Operators 17 years of age and over:

- Officer may stop the violator and issue a verbal warning or an infraction for the violation.
- If no infraction is issued the officer will obtain the necessary information for a CAD entry.

- No person shall be taken into custody, by an officer, for bicycle violations alone, although nothing prohibits custody if other crimes are present.
- Bicycles may be confiscated for bicycle violations in accordance with town ordinance, or if the bicycle is confirmed as stolen property or if the subject is arrested and taken into custody for other crimes.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians under 17 years of age:

- Officer may stop violators and issue a verbal warning.

Pedestrians 17 years of age and older:

- Officer may stop violators and issue a verbal warning or infraction for the violation
- A CAD entry will be completed. No person shall be taken into custody, by an officer, for pedestrian violations alone, although nothing prohibits custody if other crimes are present.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE VIOLATIONS: Officers will take appropriate enforcement action when and where pedestrian and/or bicycle violations are observed. The enforcement actions will be commensurate with the pedestrian and bicycle accident experience. Specific emphasis is placed upon particular violations and at times and places as determined through analysis of accident reports. This countermeasure program will be similar to the countermeasure program established for motor vehicles.

2.5.14j

Countermeasures: The countermeasures should reduce or eliminate the following: The pedestrian and bicycle accident countermeasure program:

- Human, vehicular, or environmental factors leading to an accident;
- Behavioral actions, decisions, and events that lead directly to an accident; and
- An accident type, by counteracting the precipitating factors.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accidents: The following are procedures to counter pedestrian and bicycle accidents:

- **Pedestrian Violations Enforcement:** Prior to any significant increase in the enforcement of pedestrian laws, sufficient publicity and community awareness campaigns should be undertaken by command officers:
 - Officers will concentrate their efforts on pedestrian violations in those areas where pedestrian accidents have been frequent and/or severe;
 - Officers should cite the pedestrian for "Reckless Use of the Highways", Section 53-182 CGS, if the fault for the accident is found to be the fault of the pedestrian.
- **Bicycle Violations Enforcement:** Officers have a unique challenge with regard to discretion in applying bicycle law enforcement, Section 14-286 CGS:

- In those areas where the frequency of accidents or congestion involving bicycles has been prevalent, those laws pertaining to the proper operation of bicycles will be strictly enforced.
- Officers will enforce the applicable laws when violations are observed on public roadways involving persons on bicycles.
- In those areas where traffic flow is minimal, visibility is unobstructed and traffic accident experience low, officers should exercise discretion in the application of those laws regarding safe operation of bicycles.
- Officers should be more lenient in the enforcement of the law and more instructive in their response to youthful offenders who may not be fully aware of their responsibility in the safe operation of bicycles.