

Three-Year Action Plan

The Office of Traffic Safety is currently working with its partners to draft a three-year action plan, outlining implementation and performance measures for years one, two and three of the Traffic Safety Plan (TSP).

New staff positions support traffic safety plan

Two key positions have been created to support the Traffic Safety Plan.

Liz Owens was the successful candidate for the position of Director, Policy, Research and Public Education. Liz has 25 years experience in the area of road safety and has worked extensively on many national road safety committees and in recent years has played a key role in the development of Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan. Two of Liz's key activities will be to establish:

- a provincial research committee, and
- a provincial communications committee (with Eileen McDonald, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Communications)

Interviews for the position of Director, Community Mobilization, have been completed and an announcement will be made soon of who the successful candidate is. This person will be responsible for the Community Mobilization Strategy, including oversight of 16 regional traffic coordinators province-wide.

In addition to these new staff positions, there are also two provincial steering committees supporting the work of the Office of Traffic Safety. The Alberta Occupant Restraint Program (AORP) and the Provincial Impaired Driving Committee (PIDC) will support the priorities of occupant restraint and impaired driving. In the near future, OTS will establish an additional province-wide committee, Speed and Intersection Safety Management (SISM) to tackle the priority of speed and intersection collisions.

Enforcement agencies pilot new data collection software

A key initiative under the Traffic Safety Plan is to improve traffic safety data collection. In support of this initiative, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and its Alberta traffic safety partners agreed to conduct a pilot of the data collection software TraCS.



The project included the development and piloting of an automated collision report form, violation ticket and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Inspection form. The Calgary Police Service piloted the violation ticket, Medicine Hat Police Service piloted the collision form and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch piloted the CVSA inspection form. The pilot is continuing with officers from the Stony Plain RCMP detachment piloting the three forms together.

This pilot is being funded by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Transport Canada and Manitoba Public Insurance. A final report is being developed and the results will be shared with the Alberta traffic safety partners.

Regional coordinators take plan to communities throughout Alberta

A key strategy within the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan is to have coordinated, collaborative community-based delivery of traffic safety programs, initiatives and communications. To facilitate community mobilization, funding has been provided by Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation to hire 16 regional traffic safety coordinators who will be located in regions and communities across the province (11 within regional health authority boundaries and five for Aboriginal communities).

These coordinators will facilitate the development of traffic safety committees, assist with the identification of local traffic safety issues and solutions, and link local and regional initiatives with provincial initiatives. Coordinators will be working with existing traffic safety stakeholders and will be traffic safety resources within the local communities.

Discussions with regional and Aboriginal traffic safety stakeholders have been initiated across the province to develop and implement a process for hosting and hiring the regional traffic safety coordinator. Although funding for the coordinators' salaries, benefits and travel expenses has been provided by provincial ministries, regional hosts are being sought to provide offices and office equipment for the coordinators. Regional traffic safety stakeholders have been asked to locate an appropriate host and provide input into the selection of the coordinators. To date, a host agency has been identified for the Lethbridge area (Chinook) and a search for a regional coordinator has begun. At least two other regions have identified host agencies and work continues to establish the coordinator positions across Alberta.

Enforcement agencies demonstrate commitment to Traffic Safety Plan

In June 2007, key Alberta enforcement agencies and the Office of Traffic Safety met in Hinton to plan for Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan Enforcement Strategy.

Chaired by Vince Caleffi, Director of Traffic Operations with Solicitor General and Public Security, the meeting was successful in garnering commitment on a strategy and calendar of activities within the enforcement community in Alberta. Planned activities include joint operations on key driver behaviors considered critical to the Traffic Safety Plan (seat belts, impaired driving, speed and intersection safety). Another meeting has been planned for November 2007 to plan for future years.

The Sheriffs Program continues to expand with 84 officers and more than 30,000 traffic tickets have been written within this program.



Improvements keep roads safe

Improvements on Alberta roads for 2006/07 include:

- shoulder Rumble Strips, accelerated program, \$2 million expenditure
- centreline Rumble Strips, accelerated program, \$1 million expenditure
- 2 + 1 Roads Feasibility Study for applicability to Alberta's rural highway network is underway
- use of Median Cable Barrier system on Deerfoot Trail - to address a known collision problem
- use of High Visibility Wet Night Durable Pavement Markings - to provide enhanced guidance
- use of fluorescent yellow diamond grade cubed sheeting for certain warning signs - to provide enhanced safety, better visibility for aging drivers
- some trial projects are being undertaken this summer using "Davidson" temporary pavement markers to improve safety for night-time delineation on new pavements during the construction period
- discussions are underway to partner with the City Of Calgary to perform incident detection and traffic management along Deerfoot Trail to reduce primary incident exposure time and secondary collision potentials
- intersection improvements - to address known collision problem areas and,
- barrier improvements - to provide enhanced protection for vehicles from roadside hazards.



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