

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Reviewed by: Lt. Paul Williams	Effective Date: December 26, 2006
Authorized by: Chief Dan Donath	Revision Date: September 19, 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to establish the structure, operational guidelines, job responsibilities, and operating authority of Bloomington Police Department's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

PROCEDURE

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) is a structured approach comprised of an enforcement component, as well as a communications component to gain compliance with traffic laws, and reduce crashes.

Selective Traffic Enforcement is administered by the Assistant Chief of Operations. Based upon input from the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC), timely traffic data analysis, complaints from the public, recommendations from officers and staff, and parameters established herein, the Assistant Chief of Operations will establish a roster of street segments and/or intersections scheduled for active enforcement. Selective Traffic Enforcement will be provided by the Patrol Division, or the Street Crimes Unit.

Ordinarily, a street segment will remain on the active STEP roster for a period of 30 days. A near zero tolerance policy for irresponsible driving will be in effect during the enforcement detail.

The use of non-traditional police vehicles is an enforcement strategy that may be used from time to time. This strategy will enable officers to observe traffic violators and conduct enforcement activities more effectively.

Supplemental to increased enforcement, the STEP may also use a communications component to encourage voluntary compliance. Therefore, the Office of Public Affairs may issue a news release two weeks prior to commencing the selective traffic enforcement. The news release shall include the locations targeted for STEP and the reason for the enforcement effort. However, the specific dates and times for each targeted location will not be provided.

In instances where a press release has been made regarding a STEP location violators may be provided a copy of the news release outlining the reason behind the enforcement effort. Violators are encouraged to read the media release while the officer completes the traffic citation.

A list of STEP locations will be maintained by the Assistant Chief of Operations or his designee. Each patrol Lieutenant shall assure that someone under his command completes four hours of enforcement a week, at a listed STEP location. The Street Crimes Unit or the Neighborhood Focus Team may be assigned as need arises. This program is meant to have a measureable effect on driving habits at various locations in town. Increasing visibility and frequency is a crucial component of this program. Therefore, nothing above one hour at a time will be counted towards the four hour requirement. In other words the minimum amount of times a shift should complete a STEP detail a week is four. Normally 30 minute increments are recommended. A week will be defined as 0000 hours on Sunday through 2400 hours on Saturday. The program is designed to be flexible so the various supervisors can apply common sense and consider their shift needs to complete the task of effectively enforcing traffic law at selected locations.

Officers working the STEP program at the beginning of the detail shall notify dispatch that they will be on a "STEP" detail. The dispatchers shall enter the detail as STEP. When an officer finishes their detail they will advise they have completed the STEP detail and give a short summary to the dispatcher to note on the CAD the results of the detail. This shall at minimum include the number of traffic stops conducted and the number of citations issued. In the event a STEP location had a specific purpose, for example seat belts or noise violations, the officer should advise the number of those specific violations.

The officer should report back to their supervisor the results of their STEP detail. Supervisors should impress upon officers that a near zero tolerance policy for irresponsible driving will be in effect during the enforcement detail. Supervisors should note from the feedback by officers the effectiveness of the detail and problems noted at the locations. When necessary the supervisor should make recommendations to the Assistant Chief of Operations about the various STEP locations so the list can be effectively maintained.

The CAD administrator shall produce a report on a monthly basis for the Assistant Chief of Operations to ensure the minimum STEP time requirements are being met by each shift.