

# Police Bureau Traffic Safety Enhancement

*Bureau Contact: Assistant Chief Michael Frome*

---

## DESCRIPTION

City Code Section 6.07.145 specifies that Cannabis Tax revenue shall be distributed for three purposes, one of which is public safety purposes that protect community members from unsafe drivers. The Police Bureau wishes to increase the number of Police Officer positions available for the staffing of the Traffic Division to enable the expansion of its efforts to promote traffic safety and reduce unsafe driving in support of Vision Zero. This request is associated specifically with expanding the Traffic Division's capacity to issue citations for speed and traffic signal violations captured by the photo enforcement programs operated by both the Police and Transportation Bureaus.

Officers in the Traffic Division are the bureau's primary and most effective resource for traffic safety enforcement and education. Oregon statute requires that citations for violation of traffic regulations captured via photo enforcement systems be issued by sworn peace officers. Traffic Division officers are specially trained in this process, and are the most well prepared to represent the City if the citations are disputed in traffic court.

The new position would be filled with an experienced sworn officer, allowing the bureau to hire new recruits to the positions they vacate as they join the Traffic Safety program. The bureau requests resources from the Recreational Cannabis Tax to increase the number of traffic safety positions by 1.0 FTE with ongoing funding of \$136,243.

## SERVICE IMPACTS

The Police Bureau tracks two traffic safety performance metrics that could indicate the service level impact of the increase in the number of officers in the Traffic Division: the percentage of Traffic Division enforcement with warning issued; and, the percentage of Traffic Division enforcement with citation issued. The bureau also records the number of citations issued and the number of citations paid for each of the three photo enforcement programs. These would demonstrate the efforts. The bureau also tracks the number of traffic collision fatalities.

## EQUITY IMPACTS

Traffic safety impacts the entire Portland community, across geography and demographics. The City uses a data-driven approach in planning the location of photo enforcement systems. The expansion of the City's capacity to improve traffic safety with these systems is expected to have the greatest impact on the communities in those areas that data indicate have a demonstrated level of increased risk, and those designated as being high crash corridors. All Portland Police Officers receive training in procedural justice and implicit bias so that they can better ensure equitable policing within the community. These automated systems further reduce the potential for implicit bias to enter into decisions to issue citations. The bureau also tracks and analyzes traffic stop data to determine if there is a racial or demographic component that is statistically abnormal, and develops plans to understand and mitigate inequitable impacts that affect the community.

## BUDGET DATA

<b>Major Objects</b>	One-Time	Ongoing	Total
<b>Resources</b>			
Recreational Cannabis Tax Resource	-	136,243	
<b>Total Resources</b>	-	136,243	136,243
<b>Requirements</b>			
Personnel Services		136,243	
External Materials & Services	-		
<b>Total Requirements</b>	-	136,243	136,243