



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 4, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Report from the Sheriff's Department Regarding the Photo Speed Enforcement Program**

The Sheriff's Department has made its recommendations regarding any continuation of photo speed enforcement programs. As you can see from the attached January 17, 2014 report, there is little interest in continuing the photo speed enforcement program in Pima County; either through targeted school zones or mobile units. Hence, I will consider this subject closed and will not pursue further contracts or modifications to contracts regarding photo speed enforcement programs in Pima County.

We will continue, as indicated in the Sheriff's report, to work to improve traffic safety through conventional enforcement programs available to the Sheriff's Department, which are more widely accepted by the general public.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable Clarence Dupnik, Pima County Sheriff
Christopher Nanos, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Department
Bradley Gagnepain, Administrative Bureau Commander, Sheriff's Department
Christopher Radtke, Operations Bureau Commander, Sheriff's Department
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Priscilla Cornelio, Director, Department of Transportation



Pima County Sheriff's Department

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Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff

Christopher Nanos
Chief Deputy

Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865

January 17, 2014

Mr. C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator
130 West Congress Street
Tucson, Az 85701

Re: Photo Speed Enforcement Program

Dear Mr. Huckelberry,

With the expiration of the Pima County contract with American Traffic Solutions (ATS) on January 6, 2014, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Pima County Department of Transportation has begun collaborating on an updated strategy for speed enforcement. Both departments are committed to improving public safety on County roadways through a strategic, data supported and objective driven enforcement approach. The Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) has developed the Pima County Speed Management Strategic Initiative (PCSMSI), in which we will focus our speed enforcement efforts on those areas where increased collisions and speed related incidents are more frequent. Although not new, this targeted approach will allow a more efficient use of our traffic enforcement deputies with a greater impact on driver behavior specific to PCSMSI identified areas.

In addition to our existing programs, the Sheriff's Department will utilize available funds through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant to maximize our resources to target those areas identified through the PCSMSI and accurately track enforcement and any related reduction in collisions. All of these enforcement efforts are closely coordinated with our partners at PCDOT. Representatives from both departments will meet on a monthly basis to review collected data (speed monitoring, collisions, citations/warnings, etc.) and adjust the focus of the PCSMSI as needed. This allows a flexible and reactive team approach to improving public safety. In addition to our Traffic Section, which includes our Traffic and Motor Units, we have 265 speed monitoring (radar, lidar) devices deployed with our deputies in the field. The Sheriff's Department has been, and will continue to be, aggressive in the enforcement of traffic laws in and around our local schools and other high-density pedestrian areas. We currently have a program in place to utilize grant funds from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to focus on school bus and school zone enforcement above and beyond our normal initiatives in those areas. All of these enforcement programs are tracked utilizing our Mission Oriented Policing (MOP) model for reporting and recording our activities.

You requested our recommendations regarding the following concepts/projects:

1. **Fixed photo speed enforcement cameras in school zones:** There are hundreds of school zones within Pima County. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to determine a priority for placement of fixed photo enforcement cameras. Additionally, those schools left without a fixed site would likely contend their area was just as worthy as those sites actually selected. Fixed photo enforcement at school zones is impractical given the size of our community and number of schools.
2. **The benefit of mobile photo enforcement cameras:** Mobile platforms provide the necessary flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and allow for a greater response with limited resources. Where hundreds of cameras would be required with the fixed camera concept, several mobile systems could accomplish a limited success if moved frequently. However, we have no data to support that school zones are at higher risk for collisions or pedestrian injuries. Additionally, most school zones are in operation for very short periods of time in the mornings and afternoons. During the other times, those roadways revert to the posted speed limit. Other school zones may be in operation all day. Mobile platforms placed in areas other than school zones could have a positive impact as they can be adjusted based on data collected and compiled by PCDOT based on crash data, speed surveys, and input from the Sheriff's Department and the community (citizen complaints).
3. **Traffic safety enforcement capacity of the Sheriff's Department:** The Sheriff's Department has a Motor Unit currently staffed with five (5) deputies and one (1) sergeant. The Traffic Unit is currently staffed with six (6) deputies and one (1) sergeant. This is a small, but effective use of manpower when deployment is data and objective driven. This capacity only represents a small component of our capabilities. We have 265 speed monitoring devices deployed to deputies in the field. These devices are in use by patrol deputies on a daily basis. As part of our focused collaboration with PCDOT, these deputies will continue to focus on hot spots where shared data indicates increased collisions. With the termination of the photo enforcement camera network, we have specifically targeted those areas previously monitored by the cameras. We will continue this enforcement as priorities dictate.

The Sheriff's Department remains committed to providing flexible and responsive traffic enforcement with the goal of improving driver safety in Pima County. We have always

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worked very closely with the PCDOT and will continue this productive and collaborative relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Byron Gwaltney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Captain Byron Gwaltney
Commander, Support Operations Division

Cc: Ms. Priscilla Cornelio, Director of Pima County Department of Transportation
Chief Deputy Christopher Nanos, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Chief Christopher Radtke, Operations Bureau Commander, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Chief Bradley Gagnepain, Administrative Bureau Commander, Pima County Sheriff's Department