

Chapter 36

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

Standards in this chapter govern the department's traffic engineering activities. The police department has a liaison and data-sharing responsibility with traffic engineering authorities. However, in many jurisdictions, the police department has specific responsibilities related to traffic engineering. These may include collection of data, analysis of accident patterns, selection of traffic control devices, and traffic operational planning.

36.1 Traffic Engineering

36.1.1 A written directive governs performance of department activities related to traffic engineering.

Comments: Engineering or design problems should be forwarded to local or provincial traffic engineering authorities. They should be directly related to the discovery and remedy of accident and congestion hazards. The directive should describe the authority and responsibilities of department personnel for (1) collecting and compiling traffic data; (2) conducting special traffic surveys and studies; (3) analyzing accident and enforcement data; (4) preparing special reports and making recommendations concerning the efficient use of traffic control devices, new or revised laws or ordinances, and engineering improvements; and (5) participating in local and regional transportation system management planning. (M M M)

36.1.2 A written directive governs the department's handling or referral of complaints or suggestions concerning traffic engineering deficiencies.

Comments: The directive should establish procedures to ensure that proper action is taken to investigate complaints, evaluate suggestions, and correct deficiencies or refer them to proper authorities for correction. (M M M)

36.1.3 A written directive governs procedures for transmitting accident and enforcement data to local or regional traffic engineering authorities.

Comments: Traffic records call attention to changed conditions that require alteration in engineering or enforcement policies. The department should provide copies of accident report forms and/or a monthly summary of accident and enforcement data to provide factual data necessary to make sound engineering decisions. (M M M)