



2012 Program Report Card: Traffic Services Unit, Connecticut State Police



Quality of Life Result: All motorists and pedestrians utilizing Connecticut's highways experience a safe and efficient transportation system.

Contribution to the Result: The Traffic Services Unit is comprised of several components promoting statewide traffic safety through education, enforcement and investigation. The unit is commanded by the *State Traffic Coordinator*, charged under Section 14-315 of the C.G.S. with coordinating statewide traffic safety and enforcement programs. The State Traffic Coordinator also serves as Program Manager for federal grant funding obtained by the agency for traffic safety programs and equipment utilized throughout the department. *Traffic Enforcement Teams* enforce laws related to speed and other hazardous moving violations. *Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Teams* enforce laws related to weight and safety of commercial motor vehicles. The *Collision Analysis Reconstruction Squad (CARS) Teams* investigate the cause and contributing factors of a collision. The *Motorcycle Program* coordinates training and utilization of the department's motorcycle Troopers throughout the year for patrol, traffic enforcement, traffic control and ceremonial duties. The *Seatbelt Convincer and Rollover Demonstrator Program* is an example of several traffic safety educational programs coordinated by the unit. The *Breath Alcohol Testing Vehicle (BAT Mobile)* is a self-contained chemical testing and processing vehicle that is deployed at DUI checkpoints. The *Railroad Liaison Office* serves as a law enforcement liaison to railroads and their associated federal oversight agencies. Additionally, the unit works closely with the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of State and U.S. Capitol Police to provide *Dignitary Protection* for such high level officials as the President of the United States, foreign heads of state, and high-ranking cabinet members in their official travels within Connecticut. The unit also provides *High Security Prisoner Escorts* for the Department of Corrections and Judicial Marshals during sensitive prisoner movements between correctional and court facilities.

Total Program Funding: \$7,424,209

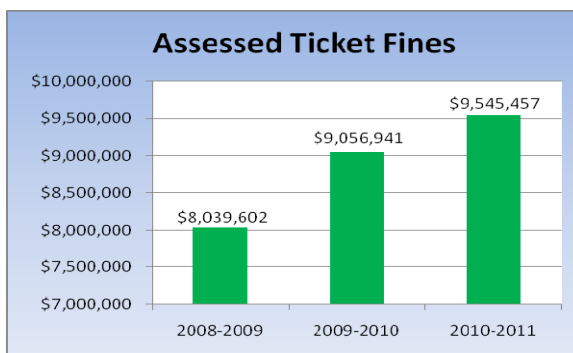
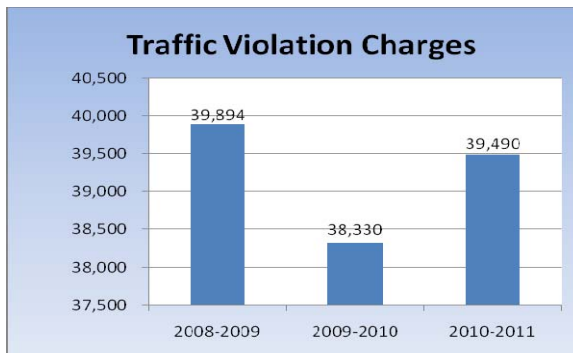
State Funding: \$6,398,780

Federal Funding: \$1,025,429

Other Funding: None

Partners: Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, public and private traffic and transportation safety agencies and organizations, educational institutions and motor carrier organizations.

Performance Measure 1: Traffic ticket charges and assessed fines from enforcement activities.



Story behind the baseline: Traffic enforcement is one of the core functions of the Traffic Services Unit. Enforcement activities are coordinated in two categories; Traffic Enforcement Teams and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Teams. Traffic Enforcement Team operations utilize specialized patrol vehicles and detection equipment to address general traffic concerns. These teams are directed to areas experiencing high crash rates and complaints of violations. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team operations are split between the state's six Weight and Safety Inspection Stations (partnering with the Department of Motor Vehicles) and mobile patrols, where portable truck scales are utilized. The agency is charged with carrying out the U.S. D.O.T.'s Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Enforcement Program, ensuring that motor carriers comply with state laws and federal regulations related to size and weight requirements. Traffic enforcement activity levels are primarily dictated by staffing levels and the degree to which enforcement personnel are diverted to other irregular assignments that fall within the unit's purview.

Average Annual Staffing Level		
2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
62	48	39

These other assignments vary in frequency according to need, and include such services as dignitary protection; security escorts for high-risk prisoners; public outreach traffic safety presentations; and investigative assistance to other law enforcement entities.

Special Assignments, Services & Operations

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Support to Other Agencies	103	116	79
Dignitary Protection	34	42	71
High Security Prisoner Escorts	45	133	169
Special Event Escorts	74	100	143

Following June of 2009, the unit's staffing level continues to be reduced, primarily due to attrition from retirements. Although this amounts to a 37% reduction in personnel, a continuous internal realignment of personnel and operations prevents an equal reduction in enforcement and other activity levels. Assessed ticket fines are a product of the charges cited and the associated fines established by the Judicial Division. Periodic increases in the fine amounts assist in the increase of the total assessed fines.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Enforcement programs and procedures are under constant review in an effort to increase operational efficiency. Application

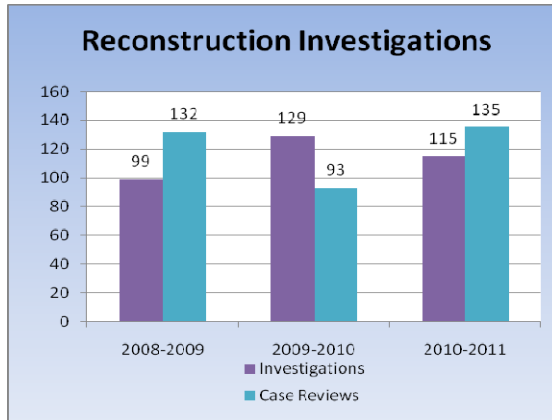


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is being made for traffic safety grants, to allow for greater utilization of existing personnel and for additional enforcement equipment.

Performance Measure 2: Collision reconstruction services conducted by the Collision Analysis Reconstruction Squad (CARS).

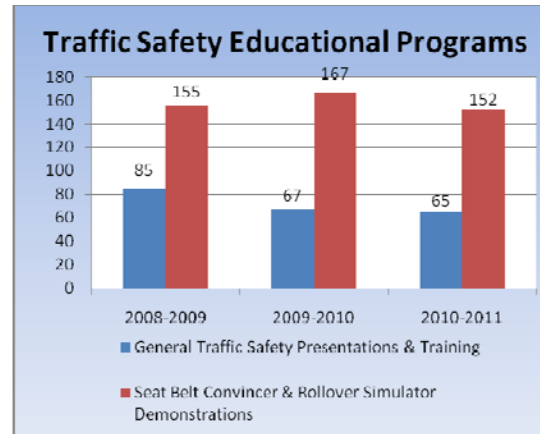


Story behind the baseline: The training and equipment required to conduct skilled, technical investigation and analysis into the causative factors of traffic collisions has become increasingly available to law enforcement. The CARS teams are highly trained Accident Reconstructionists utilizing specialized equipment and techniques to accurately document collision scenes, analyze data and employ scientific methods to determine the causes and contributing factors of collisions. The teams provide investigative assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies for collision and criminal cases, and review near-completed investigations. Investigative assistance can range from being as focused as a filament examination, to determine if a bulb was illuminated during a crash, to an entire complex collision investigation. Case reviews serve to ensure accurate, uniformed and comprehensive investigative steps have been followed, as well as identifying common trends or training needs.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Requests for investigative assistance and case review fluctuates with the unpredictability of the types of investigations

requiring their services. As more sophisticated training and equipment becomes available, more opportunity for assistance is created. Long term plans will consider expanded CARS staffing to allow for services to be available for a larger percentage of investigations.

Performance Measure 3: Traffic safety educational programs conducted by the Traffic Services Unit.



Story behind the baseline: A comprehensive traffic safety program must include an educational component. The unit coordinates several programs to educate the public. The largest of the educational programs is the Seat Belt Convincer & Rollover Simulator Program, demonstrating the importance of utilizing occupant protection devices. Other programs include commercial vehicle safety presentations for professional truck drivers and pedestrian safety for school aged children. The public is educated on the potential dangers along railroad rights-of-way and at grade crossings through the Operation Lifesaver program. The unit also conducts traffic safety and investigation training for law enforcement officers. Courses include the use of electronic speed measuring equipment, as well as advanced collision investigation equipment. The Motorcycle Program provides initial and ongoing training for state and local police officers to certify as police motorcycle operators. The Railroad Liaison Office provides training and technical assistance for law enforcement agencies concerning railroad-related enforcement and investigations.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: The agency will continue to strongly support these traffic safety efforts. Equipment was recently obtained for presentations to prevent Driving while Under the Influence. This is expected to open new opportunities for public education at the growing number of safety fairs held throughout the state. Application is being made for traffic safety grants to allow for additional educational and training supplies.

Performance Measure 4: Traffic safety federal grant programs administered by the Traffic Services Unit.



Story behind the baseline: Federal funding is crucial to the state's traffic safety program. Modern traffic issues are far too complex and resource intensive for normal patrol operations to address effectively and the agency's operational budgets do not allow for self funding of the personnel and equipment costs associated with an effective program. The agency has a very cooperative relationship with Connecticut D.O.T.'s Transportation Safety Section in developing innovative statewide traffic safety programs and obtaining the appropriate federal funding for their implementation. The State Traffic Coordinator serves as the Program Manager for all of these projects, including those that fund the utilization of personnel and procurement of equipment for projects that are conducted at field Troops, beyond that of the Traffic Services Unit.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: The agency will continue to develop innovative traffic safety projects and explore external sources for their funding.