

NC GHSP Grant Proposal: Traffic Safety Overtime (FY 22-23)

OVERVIEW: The City of Hendersonville is committed to reducing speed related fatalities, unrestrained fatalities, serious injury crashes and property damage crashes. This overtime grant will fund extra-duty efforts by Hendersonville Police Officers to conduct high-visibility enforcement activities concentrating on speed, occupant restraint violations and high crash incidence intersections or areas.

BACKGROUND: The City of Hendersonville is the largest municipality and county seat of Henderson County, North Carolina. We have a growing population of approximately 16,115 residents covering 7.61 square miles, 69 miles of state and local roadways. Hendersonville has four major state highways (US 64, US 25, US 176 and NC191) that serve 119,251 residents of Henderson County. These highways are a daily thoroughfare for people commuting into our city for work or shopping which is estimated to increase our population +83.1% to 29,506 during the daytime(city-data.com). These highways increase the motoring traffic significantly during the work week, which produces heavy traffic congestion along the major corridors. Based on data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, the average employee in Hendersonville has an average commute time of 21.8 minutes from 2015-2019. These major corridors are also thoroughfares to Hendersonville's nightlife, tourism, and public and private events in the region.

PROBLEM: Hendersonville Police Department (HPD) is currently staffed with forty-six (46) sworn personnel who answered 51,152 calls for service in 2021. Of that, 1,668 motor vehicle crashes are responded to by Hendersonville Police Officers in 2021.

From the statistical data above, the City of Hendersonville is seeing consistent growth not only in the population, but in square mileage as well. We can conclude from the statistical data, that our population growth, increase in square mileage, and congested commuter traffic, directly impacts the number of traffic crashes annually, and the number of impaired drivers on our roadways.

Between 2016 and 2021, the Hendersonville Police Department investigated 10,197 motor vehicle crashes; 7,760 of which were reportable crashes. Of the reportable crashed approximately 2.24% (96) involved impairment. Between 2016 and 2019 we had five (5) fatalities and one-thousand one-hundred forty-three (1,143) injury crashes. The Patrol Bureau conducts enforcement and education efforts as allowable between calls for service. In 2021, the Hendersonville Police Department wrote 525 speeding citations,

cited 18 individuals with seatbelt and/or child restraint violations, and made 95 DWI arrests.

With a steady and climbing number of crashes each year the City of Hendersonville was ranked third in the state for crashes in 2016 and improved slightly to 27th in 2019. With the funding from NC GHSP, the overtime grant will fund extra-duty efforts by Hendersonville Police Officers to conduct high-visibility enforcement activities concentrating on speed, occupant restraint violations and high crash incidence intersections or areas.

As a comparison, Henderson County averages 2656 reportable motor vehicle crashes with 956 injuries each year. Between 2015 and 2019 there were sixty-one (61) fatalities and four thousand seven hundred and twenty (4,720) injury crashes. County rankings show Henderson County ranked from 81st to 87th each year.

Our agency's multi-year strategic plan includes special initiatives, community education, and enforcement to reduce crashes. The agency currently participates in GHSP events, maintains a 100% reporting rate, has a strong partnership with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.), we plan to conduct multiple licenses and impaired driving checkpoints annually, and conduct seat belt and texting while driving enforcement initiatives.

PROJECT DESIGN: The Hendersonville Police Department will use these funds for its officers to conduct high-visibility or saturation type enforcement efforts focusing on speed, seatbelt, and redlight enforcement. The Hendersonville Police Department will schedule a minimum of forty (40) hours of overtime throughout the month. Officers will work 4-6 hour shifts. To be reimbursed for funds spent on overtime (time and a half) salary and benefits, the agency will submit a monthly schedule for the overtime efforts and the monthly on-duty schedules for officers who worked the overtime enforcement activities that month. The Hendersonville Police Department agrees to submit copies of CAD reports that coincide with each officer's overtime shift, payroll detail sheets which document the officer's salary and fringe benefit information for all officers working the overtime enforcement activities, enforcement data, and copies of citations issued during the overtime shift.