




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department 

DATE: April 29, 2020

SUBJECT: Response to Resolution No. 20190910-001 – Vision Zero Enforcement Policies (CIUR 2010)

As part of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget adoption (Ordinance No. 20190910-001), the City Council directed the City Manager to evaluate Vision Zero enforcement policies and determine approaches to optimize the \$1.0 million dollars in FY 2020 allocated for traffic enforcement program to achieve safer roads and reduce the number of people who die or are seriously injured in traffic crashes to zero.

The current agreement between the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and Austin Police Department (APD) to provide traffic enforcement is focused on the key behaviors which contribute to most of our serious injury and fatal crashes (impaired driving, distracted driving, failure to yield, and speeding). A portion of the current funding goes towards fully supporting APD's "No Refusal Initiative" to ensure there are enough staff resources every weekend and other key dates (holidays and special events). In FY20, this funding was increased by 40% to be able to cover more days around the 2019 holiday season and other major sports, music, and cultural events throughout the fiscal year. In the first quarter of FY20, the "No Refusal" program produced 577 DWI arrests, which was 54% of all DWI arrests for APD in the quarter.

Most of the rest of the funding is used to increase traffic enforcement focused primarily on speeding and distracted driving, two key driver behaviors which have seen an overall reduction in numbers of citations in recent years. Applying updated data analysis using enhanced crash data for the most recent five-year period allows us to optimize where enforcement resources are deployed. This enforcement is now focused on the highest priority street segments where severe injury and frequent crashes occur. In January and February 2020, prior to the full impacts of reduced street activity due to COVID-19 response, we had seen an approximately 35% reduction in serious injury crashes in Austin compared to the first two months of 2019, and this targeted enforcement may be a critical factor for that success.

Staff will continue to explore whether additional limited enforcement dollars could be spent in partnership with other jurisdictions which operate in the City limits to assist in this community-wide challenge.

If there are further questions please feel free to contact me or Lewis Leff, ATD's Transportation Safety Officer, at Lewis.Leff@austintexas.gov.

CC: Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
Brian Manley, Chief of Police