



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen, Assistant City Manager Anne Lewis

FROM: Brad Reed, Transportation Planner

DATE: Monday, April 1, 2015

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from March 11, 2015 Meeting

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 8:30 AM in Room 205 of the City Municipal Building, 345 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (NE Citizen Member), Calvin Ferrell (SE Citizen Member), Len Van Wyk (SW Citizen Member), Brad Reed (Public Works Member Designee), MPO Greg Deeds (Police Member Designee), Sgt. Pete Ritchie (Police), Deputy Chief Ian Bennett (Fire), Paul Helmuth (Fire), Lee Eshelman (JMU), Doug Stader (DMV)

Guests Present: None

Commission meetings are open to the public and citizens are provided the opportunity to voice their views/concerns about any item before the Commission. It is the policy of the Commission to move relevant agenda items to the beginning of the meeting when citizens are in attendance to avoid detaining them for the entire meeting.

Welcome

New Business

1. Selection of Commission chairman

Mr. Blessing asked the Commission members whether anyone would like to put their name in for consideration as the new Commission chairman. None of the Commission members chose to do so. Mr. Blessing volunteered and members unanimously voted to have him continue in the role of chairman.

2. Special presentation on police traffic safety statistics for 2014

MPO Deeds provided a presentation on HPD traffic safety statistics, which is attached to this summary. After the presentation, MPO Deeds and Sgt. Ritchie elaborated on the Police Department's crash reporting abilities, noting that a person in their department is being assigned to help with crash review. This individual would be assigned to look at Area 4 (Reservoir St/E Market St vicinity), which is the most significant problem area at present, and would suggest special enforcement and possible engineering solutions. It was also noted that crash reporting has some important limitations, as crashes with property damage under \$1,500 typically don't get reported unless there is also a personal injury. Additionally, crashes that occur on I-81 within the city are most often logged as occurring in Rockingham County rather than in Harrisonburg. This issue causes various shortfalls in our crash statistics and being discussed with the Virginia State Police. Sgt. Ritchie is considering ways to improve upon these limitations to provide for more accurate statistical reporting and an improved ability to identify locations with recurring safety issues.

The Commission thanked MPO Deeds for the presentation and agreed that more thorough crash reporting would be beneficial. Mr. Blessing commented that it would be good have more crash details on areas being looked at by the Commission to better understand traffic safety problems.

Old Business

3. Review of next steps for the Old Town Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

Mr. Reed provided a review of Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program efforts in the Old Town neighborhood and topics from the January meeting. At that meeting, it was decided that the temporary half-street closure at E Bruce St & Ott St would be evaluated further through an online survey that would request opinions from residents on E Bruce St, Franklin St, Ott St (between E Market St and Franklin St), and Newman Ave. The survey would gather input from those directly affected by the half-street closure who may not have spoken to the working group of neighborhood representatives.

Public Works staff sent postcard invitations to the online survey to 88 households and received only 9 responses. 5 of these were from individuals wanting to see the half-closure removed, while 4 responses were for keeping it in place. In general, staff felt that this low level of response might be indicative of a lack of negative feelings toward the new configuration when considered along with the consensus of the neighborhood working group to keep the half-closure in place. Also taken into consideration was the previous vote by this Commission to keep the half-closure because of its reduction in stop sign roll through at the E Bruce St & Ott St intersection and its reduction in neighborhood through traffic which was greater than the volume of traffic shifted onto Franklin St. After the individual survey responses were shared, the Commission was asked to decide whether they cared to change their previous recommendation.

Mr. Blessing commented that the neighborhood is safer now than before as a result of the half-closure because of its impact on the E Bruce St & Ott St intersection and reduction in overall traffic. The Commission voted to maintain its previous recommendation to keep the half-

closure in place. Mr. Van Wyk abstained from the vote, saying that he had no strong opinion one way or another on the issue.

4. Central Ave centerline (Laurel St to Hope St) citizen concern

Mr. Reed shared a citizen complaint regarding the lack of centerline marking on Central Ave between Laurel St and Hope St. The specific concern is that vehicles cresting the hill between these streets are unable to clearly see oncoming traffic and some drivers tend to drift toward the center of the street, creating potential conflicts. Given that painting will not be able to be completed until the spring/summer, Mr. Reed asked that the Commission members review this issue and return with thoughts at the April or May meeting.

As discussed and recommended at a previous Commission meeting, the centerline was only painted on the curves between Southampton Dr and Laurel St after repaving. This was done to provide vehicles with space to shift over when passing pedestrians and cyclists, especially adjacent to parked cars where pedestrians have to walk in the travel lane outside of the marked edgeline.

Other Business / Announcements

Adjourn



Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA
WORK & LIFE IN BALANCE

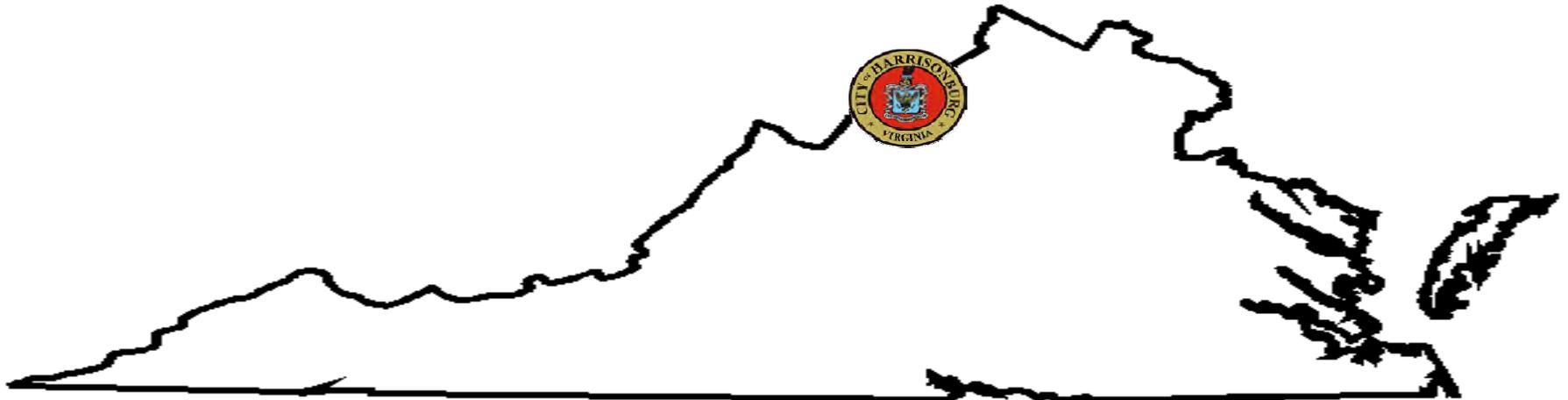


Harrisonburg Police Department Traffic Safety Report

2014



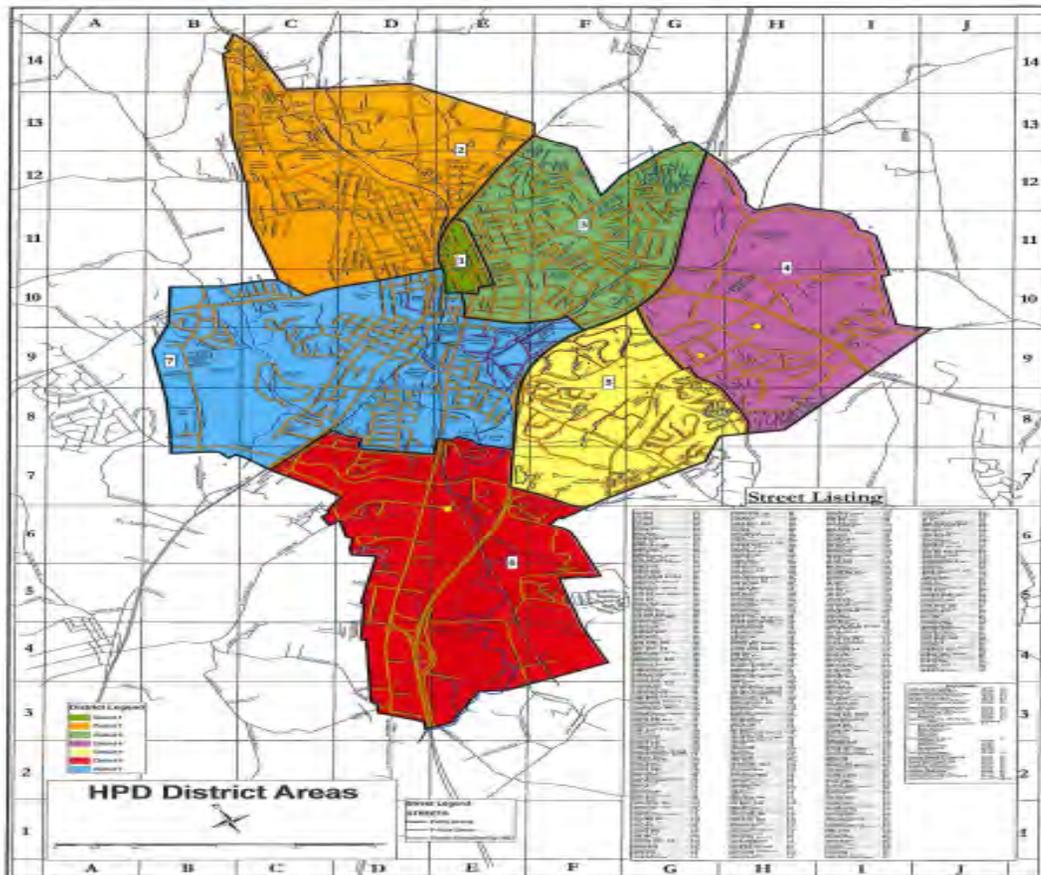
Traffic Safety Advisory Commission



Harrisonburg consists of **17.4 square miles** with 301.58 lane miles of streets and approximately 6 miles or 24 lane miles of interstate highway within its city limits.

Harrisonburg currently has a population of **52,612 / 75,612** and is Virginia's **12th largest city,**

with approximately **22,528** Licensed Drivers with another **56,142** Licensed Drivers in Rockingham County with a population of 78,953.



GEO-Policing Districts

- ❖ Crime / Traffic Analyst Hired.
- ❖ Each district was assigned a supervisor, the Crime Analyst prepares monthly crime / traffic-crash reports and heat maps within each district that highlight problem areas.
- ❖ Supervisors meet quarterly with officers/Traffic Unit Officers assigned to each individual district to discuss crime / accident reduction and enforcement efforts.
- ❖ The department also receives DMV crash reports & heat maps each year to better manage their traffic safety efforts and DMV grant monies.



ANNAUL DMV TREADS CRASH DATA:

City of Harrisonburg	2012	2013	2014
Crashes	878	837	974
Fatalities	0	0	0
Injuries	340	334	322
Percentage of Injuries of Total Crashes	39%	40%	33%
Alcohol Related Crashes	55	50	47
Fatalities	0	0	0
Injuries	16	14	18
% of Alcohol Related Injuries Crashes to Total Crashes	5%	4%	6%
Speed Related Crashes	121	110	103
Fatalities	0	0	0
Injuries	73	34	49
% of Speed Related Injuries Crashes to Total Crashes	21%	10%	15%

- The City of Harrisonburg saw a **15% spike** in reportable crashes during 2014.
- However Alcohol & Speed reported crashes **decreased 6%**.
- Total crash related injuries also continue a **three year decline**.
- No Fatalities reported since 2011: Pedestrian-Bus / JMU Campus.

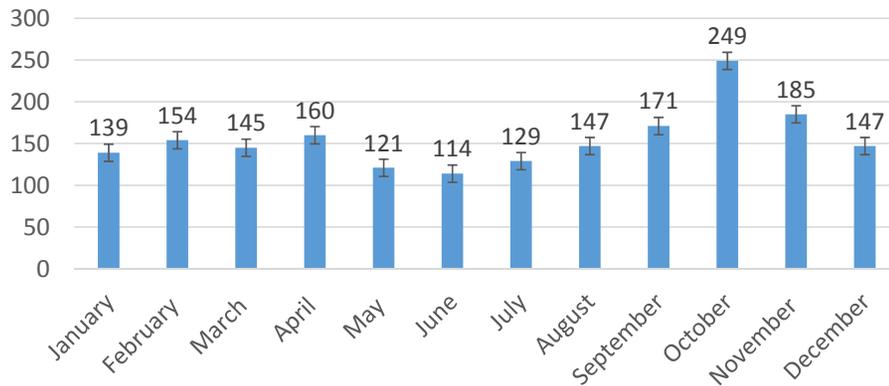


Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

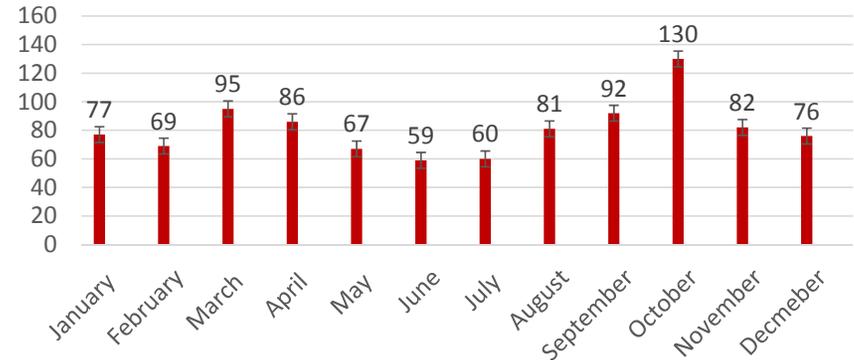
2014 CITY CRASH DATA

1,866 vs 974

CALLS FOR SERVICE CRASHES, HIT & RUNS



DMV TREADS REPORTABLE CRASHES



121,763 / 2013

STATEWIDE REPORTABLE CRASHES
 (\$1,500 or Personal Injury on a Public Roadway)
 1,689 Fewer Crashes

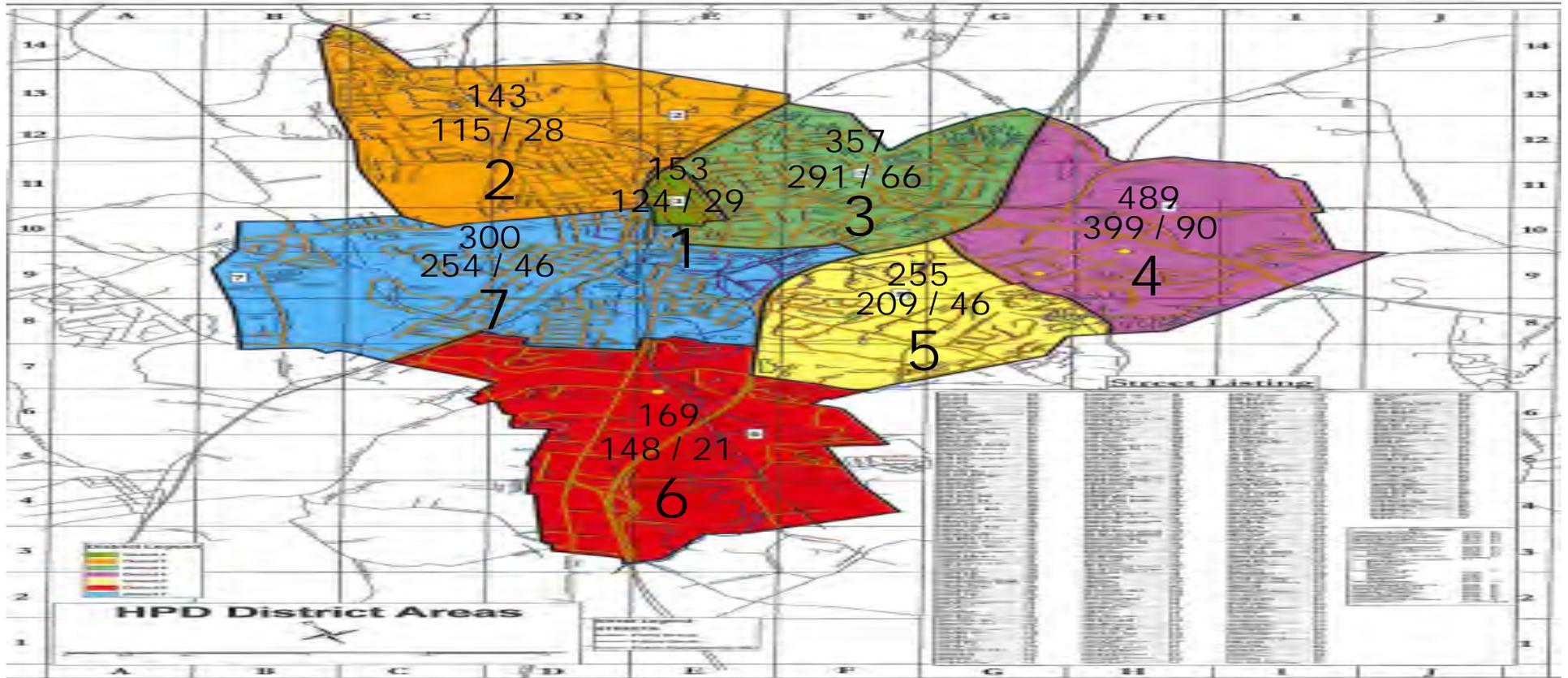
120,074 / 2014



Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

CRASHES / HIT & RUN BY GEO-POLICING DISTRICT

1,866 TOTAL TRAFFIC CRASHES / HIT & RUNS





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

1. (29) 171 BURGESS Ln. - H'burg Crossing
2. (24) Port / Main
3. (20) Neff / Reservoir
(20) Burgess / Market
4. (17) Port / I-81
5. (15) E. Market / I-18

6. (14) 101 N. Main St. / Public Safety Bldg.
7. (13) 533 University - Sheetz
(13) 704 Port Rd. -Royal Station

8. (11) 85 Carlton / Food Lion
(11) Port / Devon
(11) 710 Port Rd. / Strites Donuts
(11) University / Reservoir - Sheetz
(11) 1830 Reservoir St . Costco
(11) 1930 Reservoir St. - Dupont CU

TOP 10 CRASH LOCATIONS for 2014

9. (10) High / Erickson
(10) 395 S. High - Memorial Hall
(10) Reservoir / Evelyn Byrd
(10) 798 E. Market - Sheetz

10. (9) Bradley / Port
(9) Forrest Hill / Port
(9) University / Evelyn Byrd
(9) 1860 E. Market - Applebee's



Reservoir St. Corridor (85) / 20,000



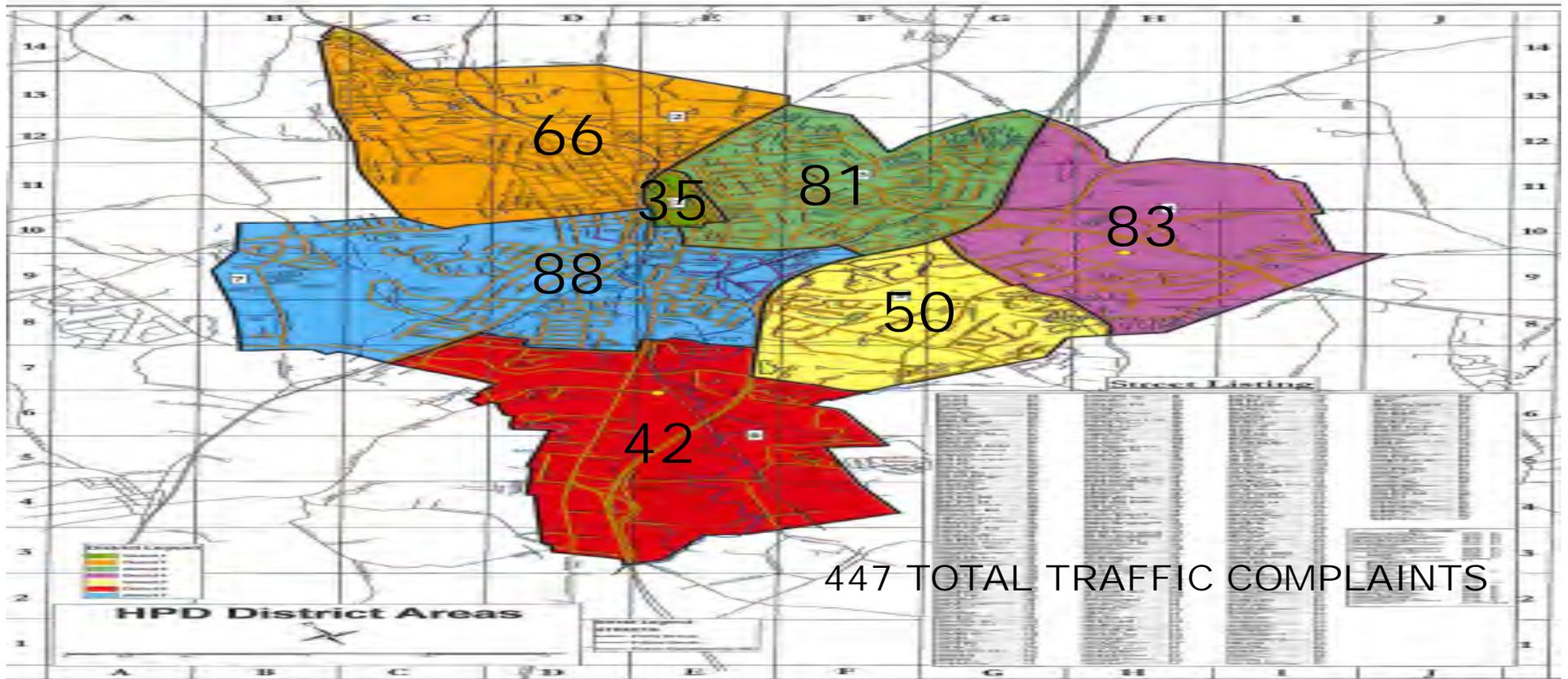
Port Rd. Corridor (85) / 20,000



E. Market St. Corridor (54) / 25,000



TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS BY GEO-POLICING DISTRICT





2014 / Top 10 Traffic Charges:

Traffic Citation	Total	Percent of Total Traffic
25 MPH Zone / 46.2-874	2,801	27%
35 MPH Zone / 46.2-875	1,173	12%
Exp. Inspection Sticker / 46.2-1158	888	9%
Expired Registration / 46.2-613	521	5%
Seat Belt Violation / 46.2-1094	464	5%
No Operator's License / 46.2-300	435	4%
Drive Suspended or Revoked / 46.2-301	422	4%
Fail to Yield R.O.W / 46.2-821	410	4%
Follow to Closely / 46.2-816	256	3%
Fail to Obey H-way Sign / 46.2-830	248	2%

2014 ENFORCEMENT DATA:

Total TRAFFIC Citations rose from 9,628 to 10,231 in 2014, a 6% increase over 2013 totals.

- Speeding violations in 25 & 35 mph zones accounted for 39% of those total citations with seat belts accounting for 5%.





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission



\$ 34,000 **DMV Grant Funding**

Speed Grant / \$ 10,000

- 36 Saturation Patrols
 - 446 Total Violations
 - 63 O/P Violations
 - 1 DUI

Alcohol Grant / \$ 24,000

- 66 Saturation Patrols
- 3 Checkpoints
 - 310 Total Violations
 - 11 DUI's

624.5 DMV Overtime Hours Logged

756 Total Traffic Violations

12 DUI's / 12 Drug Arrests



2014 ENFORCEMENT DATA:

2014 CHECKPOINT STRIKFORCE ENFORCEMENT WAVES

- New Years / January
- Super Bowl / February
- St. Patrick's Day / March
 - July 4th / July
- JMU Welcome Back / August
- Labor Day / September
- Halloween / October
- Christmas / December

* NHTSA & DMV Media Buys



Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

2014 OCCUPANT PROTECTION EFFORTS

Charge Code	Charge Description	2011	2012	2013	2014
46.2-1094	SEAT BELT VIOLATION / ADULT	290	233	500	455
46.2-1094	SEAT BELT VIOLATION / JUVENILE	5	4	9	6
46.2-1095	CHILD / BOOSTER SEAT VIOLATIONS	84	81	109	92
TOTAL OCCUPANT PROTECTION VIOLATIONS:		379	318	618	553
Percentage increase or decrease over previous year:			-16%	+94%	-11%
<p>The occupant protection arrest chart depicts a four year comparison of violations. We attribute a phenomenal 2013 for occupant protection citations to our decline in 2014, although 2014 was leaps and bounds above 2011 and 2012.</p>					

Seat Belt Surveys

MAY 91%

June 88%

SECONDARY VIOLATION

COMPLIANCE RATES

88% Harrisonburg

79.7% Virginia

87% Nationwide





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

2014 OCCUPANT PROTECTION EFFORTS

City Child Seat Technician (2007)



Ms. Rodriguez performed 1,474 installs and attended 65 events during 2014.



2014 SPEED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Charge Code Description	2011	2012	2013	2014
46.2-870 Speeding - 55 or 65 MPH Zone	3	2	1	6
46.2-872 Speeding - vehicle w / special permit	0	0	0	1
46.2-873 Speeding - in School Zone	3	3	15	26
46.2-874 Speeding - 25 MPH Zone	1,595	2,052	2,646	2,828
46.2-875 Speeding - 35 MPH Zone	734	723	1,551	1,191
46.2-876 Speeding - vehicle towing a trailer	1	0	0	0
46.2-878 Speeding - All other zones not specified	29	29	61	119
46.2-878.1 Speeding - in Work Zone	1	1	0	1
46.2-878.2 Speeding - in 25 MPH Zone / increased fine	1	4	0	3
Grand Totals	2,431	2,813	4,274	4,165
Percentage increase or decrease over previous year:		+ 37%	+ 52%	- 3%



7% INCREASE in Speeding Citations
in 25 MPH Zones.



IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Charge Code	Charge Description	2011	2012	2013	2014
18.2-266	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED	196	167	193	193
18.2-266.1	DRIVE AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL	5	8	10	6
18.2-270	DUI - 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE	20	19	17	22
18.2-323.1	DRINKING WHILE OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE	5	1	9	6
Alcohol Totals Involving A Motor Vehicle:		222	195	229	227
Percentage increase or decrease over previous year:			-14%	+13%	-.9%



- DUI Arrests **Increased 2%** in 2014 from 2013.
- Although 1st Offense DUI arrests stayed the same, **2nd Offense DUI Arrests rose 30%**.



UNDERAGE ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Charge Code	Charge Description	2011	2012	2013	2014
4.1-111	KEG REGISTRATION VIOLATION	9	14	16	14
4.1-304	SELL ALCOHOL TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSON	1	1	0	0
4.1-305	POSSESS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE UNDERAGE	834	559	580	462
4.1-306	PURCHASE ALCOHOL FOR UNAUTH. PERSON	9	9	8	6
4.1-323	AID OR ABET ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS	2	0	0	0
18.2-388	PUBLIC INTOXICATION (DIP)	921	726	702	658
16-8-51	DRINKING IN PUBLIC	14	6	11	7
16-8-51 (B)	OPEN CONTAINER	227	129	142	133
Alcohol Totals Violation Involving Pedestrians:		2,017	1,444	1,459	1,280
Percent increase or decrease over previous year:			- 28%	+ 1%	- 12%

“Excuse me Miss, is that Vodka in those water bottles” ?



- Total Criminal Arrests rose from 6,210 to 6,434 in 2014, a 4% Increase.
- Alcohol Violations accounted for 20% of the total criminal violations.



UNDERAGE ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

2014 ASAP STATS

In 2014 Harrisonburg Police Department of the 15 reporting enforcement agencies within Rockingham County accounted for:

396 / 83% of 478 Total Underage Alcohol Referrals
(Pre - 2010 Riot referrals 1189)

186 / 45% of 411 Total DUI / DUID Referrals

209 / 59% of 356 Total Marijuana Referrals

- DUI / DUID Referrals saw a **6% Increase** and
- Marijuana Referrals **saw a 31% Increase** over 2013 total.

However Underage Alcohol Referrals saw a **25% decrease** and total alcohol related citations **decreased 12%** over 2013 totals.



THE COMMISSION ON
VASAP
VIRGINIA ALCOHOL SAFETY
ACTION PROGRAM





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Harrisonburg City Transit



- 2,200 Riders
 - Friday - Saturday
 - 10pm - 2:15am
- 53,020 / 6 month period



- ❖ ABC CAB
- ❖ CHECKERED CAB
- ❖ GREEN CAB
- ❖ ROYAL CAB

3 STRIKES and you're out !
 JMU Off-Campus Housing Taskforce
 (Expulsions ave. 5 per month)

5 Companies / 100 Registered Drivers





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

EDUCATION

2014 Golf Kart / Convincer Events

Berea Christian School
Harrisonburg High School Driver's Ed.
Classes
Harrisonburg Fire Dept. Car Seat Check
at Dream Come True Playground
HPD Citizen Police Academy
Safe Kids Summer Safety Tour
JMU Freshman Block Party
Sugar Grove Navy Base Health Fair

24 JMU "Calling the Shots"

30 Speed Trailer Deployments





Traffic Safety Advisory Commission



94 Sworn Officers – 52,612 Population

Daylight: 12 Officers

Night: 14 Officers / 2 JMU Task Force Officers