

Missouri Department of Transportation (statewide4) – Traffic

In the State of Missouri, the state highway safety program is administered through the Highway Safety Office (HSO), a unit of the Highway Safety and Traffic Division, Missouri Department of Transportation(MoDOT).

The MoDOT mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri. The Highway Safety and Traffic Division (THSD), Highway Safety Office (HSO), works specifically to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes resulting in deaths and injuries. This requires the staff to work closely with state and local agencies in an attempt to develop programs which are innovative, cost efficient and, above all, effective in saving lives. This is accomplished through development and administration of the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

This task takes a concerted effort from numerous individuals and groups. The Highway Safety and Traffic Division strives to incorporate involvement from both tradition a land non-traditional partners in our safety endeavors. Expanded partnerships enable us to reach a broader base of customers with the life-saving messages of traffic safety.

The staff of the Highway Safety and Traffic Division consists of just over a dozen dedicated professionals who control all the traffic safety components throughout Missouri. These individuals are responsible for controlling and dispersing grant funding throughout the state, developing new and innovative programs/projects to increase traffic safety throughout the state, along with a variety of other traffic safety planning and programming. They are assisted in their efforts through partnering with a variety of government/non-government agencies and other non-traditional partners, including but not limited to the Missouri State Highway Patrol-Statistical Analysis Center, University of Central Missouri-Missouri Safety Center, Health and Safety Councils, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, Missouri Safe Communities, Missouri Advocates for Traffic Safety, Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC)to name a few.

In April of 2016, the Division instituted a Law Enforcement Liaison Program; ultimately deploying three (3) LEL's who are responsible for different regions within the state. The LEL's primary responsibility is to contact agencies within their regions and encourage the agencies to participate in the various traffic safety programs/initiatives controlled and sponsored by the Highway Safety and Traffic Division. Sgt. Amato took his retirement from the Union Police Department to become the first Missouri LEL representing the Eastern Region of the state.

In recent years the Division has increased their focus on officer safety initiatives and is making a strong effort to provide safety training and equipment to officers/emergency responders throughout the state by offering a variety of programs specifically geared to increase the safety of emergency responders as they conduct their daily activities.

These efforts include offering free "Traffic Incident Management Systems"(TIMS) training throughout the state to all emergency responders at no cost, specifically addressing and

including officer safety components in the State Highway Safety Plan's Six Emphasis Areas (Work Zone / Traffic Incident Management Areas)¹. Other efforts include encouraging officers to wear high-visibility apparel, providing specific safety training to officers concerning the use of seatbelts by emergency responders (Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies/Officer Roadside Safety Program) and providing safety equipment to officers and agencies involved in traffic enforcement programs