



SASKATOON _____
POLICE SERVICE

TO: Chair Shirley Greyeyes
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Cameron McBride
Chief of Police

DATE: 2025 March 07

SUBJECT: Saskatoon Police Service
Traffic Unit and Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
2024 Annual Reports

FILE #: 2,012

ISSUE:

The Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) works to provide safer roads by utilizing officers whose efforts are specifically focused on traffic safety. These officers are deployed in two Units: SPS Traffic, who work exclusively within city boundaries, and Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS), who work on provincial highways and within the boundaries of the City of Saskatoon. The goal of both Units is to reduce serious injuries and fatal collisions within Saskatoon and surrounding highways, through education and enforcement.

The attached annual reports highlight the variety of education and enforcement initiatives realized by these teams, as well as the collaboration with outside agencies undertaken to achieve these aims.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this and the attached Traffic Unit and CTSS reports be received as information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

The Traffic Unit and CTSS operate as part of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. In 2024, the SPS Business Plan did not include a Traffic Strategy; but remain committed ensuring safer roads in the community through the core policing operations within the overall Strategic Plan.

Goal: Maintain core policing operations while addressing concerns that affect public safety.

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

In the SPS 2025 Business Plan; the Traffic Unit and CTSS is committed to the following:

Strategy: Safer Roads in our Community.

Activity: Strengthen Traffic efforts to reduce dangerous driving, impaired driving, and reduce collisions through education and enforcement on our roads.

DISCUSSION:

SPS Traffic Unit

The SPS Traffic Unit is comprised of:

- 1 Staff Sergeant;
 - This dedicated supervisory role was piloted in 2024 and made permanent for 2025 and beyond. The Staff Sergeant is also responsible for the supervision of the SPS members of CTSS.
- 2 Sergeants and 16 Enforcement Constables;
- 2 Collision Analyst Detail Members and 2 Hit and Run investigators;
- 1 Automated Speed Enforcement officer and 1 Red Light Camera officer.

The unit operates a fleet of four unmarked and three marked police cars as well as two marked motorcycles. Officers use various tools, including Mobile RADAR, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) to conduct their duties.

As part of the core services provided by the SPS, the Traffic Unit’s primary focus is road safety, achieved through education and enforcement of traffic laws. Specialized officers in this Unit handle traffic enforcement and collision investigations, allowing patrol officers to focus on other public safety priorities. The Unit’s visible presence serves as a reminder to drivers to adhere to road rules, promoting safety for all road users.

In order to accomplish this is through enforcement and education of traffic laws ensuring safety for drivers and pedestrians. Deploying officers who have specialized training in traffic enforcement and collision investigation allows our frontline Patrol officers to focus on other priorities for a safe community. The Traffic Unit provides a visible presence within the community and serves as a visible reminder to the non-offending driver to ensure rules of the road are being adhered.

The SPS also collaborates with local, provincial and national agencies on coordinated strategies to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities. The SPS recognizes that impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, and not wearing a seatbelt, also known as the “Big Four” are leading causes of collisions and aggravating factors in injury severity. These offences remain the focal point of daily enforcement activities. The Unit follows a monthly focus aligned with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) traffic safety calendar, to address specific driving concerns such as impaired driving, school and work zones, occupant safety, and license and registration laws. Additionally, educational efforts help remind the public of seasonal or sporadic infractions.

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

A continuing challenge for the Unit is the emergence of car “rallies”, where groups of car enthusiasts gather in private parking lots for speed contests, stunting and noise violations. The Traffic Unit will develop operational plans to address this issue should it persist into 2025.

The Traffic Unit is committed to ensuring the safe traffic flow for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians by focusing on high risk driving behaviors. Visible traffic stops not only address dangerous driving but also reassures law-abiding motorists the SPS is actively addressing traffic safety issues.

Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan

The SPS CTSS contingent has 10 provincially funded positions comprised of:

- 1 Sergeant and 9 Constables;

The CTSS Unit operates 3 marked and 2 unmarked police vehicles equipped with Mobile RADAR, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) technology.

The Unit’s 10 members operate in collaboration with the RCMP Central District Traffic Unit. Established in 2014 following recommendations from the provincial government’s Special Committee on Traffic Safety, the CTSS program aims to provide enhanced traffic enforcement across Saskatchewan. The primary objective is to reduce serious injury and fatal collisions on provincial highways.

In 2024, CTSS members conducted approximately one-third of their enforcement activities within the City of Saskatoon. They continue to support SPS Traffic Unit operations, assisting with back-to-school education, impaired driving blitzes, and Selective Traffic Enforcement Projects (STEP). The STEP initiative is a partnership between law enforcement agencies throughout the province and SGI, aimed at improving road safety and reducing fatalities and injuries on Saskatchewan roadways.

Participation in the CTSS does not affect staffing levels in other areas of SPS operations, as the program is funded by the Government of Saskatchewan. As a result, Saskatoon benefits from additional traffic enforcement at no added cost to the city.

CONCLUSION:

As outlined in the attached annual reports, the efforts of the SPS Traffic Unit and CTSS in 2024 contributed to significant road safety improvements in Saskatoon. While challenges such as fluctuating staffing levels and the need for ongoing support to Patrol Units impacted some operations, the overall outcomes were positive. Despite ongoing road safety concerns, the collaboration between SPS and its partners continues to drive forward important traffic safety initiatives, ensuring safer roadways for the citizens of Saskatoon.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2024 SPS Unit Traffic Annual Report
2. 2024 CTSS Annual Report

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