

City of Johns Creek Police Department

<i>Subject:</i> Traffic Direction and Control	<i>Number:</i> 02-23
<i>Reference:</i> GA PORT – 5 th Edition, 2003; Section 6.5	<i>Amends:</i>
<i>Effective:</i> 04/08 <i>Revised:</i> 01/10 01/14 05/16	<i>Review Date:</i> Annually <i># of Pages:</i> 4

PURPOSE:

Establish procedures for the proper direction of traffic.

POLICY: (02-23)

The Johns Creek Police Department will carry out its responsibility for traffic direction and control by providing appropriate personnel and managing available resources. Traffic direction shall be utilized to effectively and efficiently maintain traffic patterns and/or traffic flow and to minimize peril to the motorists. Achievement of this objective may be accomplished through alternating traffic patterns, signal directions, detours, etc.

PROCEDURES:

High Visibility Clothing (02-23-01)

When directing traffic, officers will wear and use the following issued traffic gear:

- A. High-visibility reflective traffic vest or jacket
- B. High-visibility reflective gloves
- C. Whistle

Traffic Control at Fire Scenes and Critical Incidents (02-23-02)

Officers engaged in traffic direction and control services at fire scenes or critical incidents will ensure access to and egress from the scene by Johns Creek Fire Department or (Fulton County) personnel and other emergency vehicles.

No vehicles will be allowed to cross fire hoses without the approval of the senior fire official on the scene. While conducting traffic control at a critical incident or fire scene the officer will control media access to areas which would interfere with law enforcement or fire operations.

Parked vehicles which interfere with fire operations or criminal incidents may be towed as needed.

Traffic Control During Adverse Road and Weather Conditions (02-23-03)

The Shift Supervisor will request Communications Operators to notify the local radio stations, public works, Johns Creek Fire Department and other public safety agencies of adverse road conditions that will affect vehicle traffic.

Department personnel will provide traffic direction and control services at the scene of all downed power lines, broken gas lines, water mains or construction sites which endanger the safe movement of traffic through the area.

The Shift Supervisor may close a street if, in his/her opinion, the surface conditions and terrain create an unusually hazardous condition. The Supervisor should request assistance from the proper agency in alleviating the problem and request public service radio announcements be made in reference to the closure. Other public safety agencies will also be notified.

Escorts (02-23-04)

Requests to escort public officials or dignitaries must be approved by the Chief of Police.

Police vehicles ***shall not*** be used to escort private vehicles on emergency runs or any emergency vehicle which has its own operating emergency equipment. Police officers may facilitate the movement of other emergency vehicles by assisting with traffic control at key intersections.

Special Events (02-23-05)

Special events such as parades, sporting events, highway construction and maintenance, picketing, etc., may require special traffic plans which cover all aspects of traffic control and direction.

Generally, the Traffic Safety Unit will handle parades and road races while the Uniform Patrol Division will assign personnel to handle other special events as they occur. Upon learning of a special event, the Chief of Police will promptly designate certain personnel to ensure the preparation/implementation of a special traffic plan which addresses:

1. Ingress and egress of vehicles and pedestrians;
2. Provisions for parking;
3. Spectator/crowd control;
4. Public transportation;
5. Assignment of point control duties and relief;
6. Alternate traffic routing;
7. Temporary traffic controls and parking prohibitions;
8. Emergency vehicle access; and
9. Appropriate area for media coverage.

Traffic Control Devices (02-23-06)

Temporary traffic control devices such as cones, barricades, etc., may be obtained from the Public Works Department for special events or emergency situations. The Shift Supervisor will have the authority to request these devices and determine the location for using them.

Temporary devices will be removed when the event or emergency situation is over and will be returned to the Public Works Department.

In cases where traffic is congested because of a special event, police emergency or malfunctioning traffic control device, and the traffic control device needs to be repaired or placed on flashing, the Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division will be called

to the scene. Officers will not manually operate such devices unless prior approval is granted by Traffic Engineering.

Complaints or suggestions concerning traffic engineering deficiencies, such as traffic control devices and posted speed limits shall be forwarded to the Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division. The Traffic Safety Unit will assist the city's traffic engineering division with speed surveys, collecting traffic data and providing suggestions to alleviate congestion or reduce traffic collisions. The Traffic Unit Commander will be responsible for submitting collision and enforcement data to the city's traffic engineering division.

Manual Direction of Traffic (02-23-07)

When directing traffic, the officer should be visible to all drivers. The officer's back should be to traffic which has stopped, and his/her side toward traffic that has been directed to move.

- A. Traffic should be stopped and started by achieving eye contact with the driver and using the appropriate hand gestures.
- B. Right turning drivers usually effect their turns without being directed by the officer.
- C. Left turning drivers should not be directed to turn while the officer is also directing oncoming traffic to proceed. The officer should either direct opposing vehicles to start while avoiding left gestures directed at turning drivers, which lead them to complete their turn only when there is a gap in the oncoming traffic, or to stop or hold oncoming drivers, after which the left turning driver can be directed to turn.

Signaling Aids (02-23-08)

The whistle shall be used to get the attention of drivers and pedestrians.

- A. One long blast should accompany the STOP signal.
- B. Two short blasts should accompany the GO signal.
- C. Several short blasts should be used to get the attention of a driver or pedestrian who does not respond to a given signal. Eye contact should be established as soon as possible.

The whistle shall be used judiciously. It should not be used to indicate frustration. The volume should be just that sufficient to be heard by those whose attention is required.

Whistle blasts directed at pedestrians should be moderate in volume. The whistle should be used only to indicate stop, go, or to gain attention. When its purpose has been achieved, the officer should cease sounding the whistle. If the whistle is utilized continuously, it ceases to hold meaning for drivers and pedestrians.

The voice is seldom used in directing traffic. Arm gestures and the whistle are usually sufficient. Hand signals and gestures used in conducting traffic direction and control must be uniform. Motorists and pedestrians must understand your signals and gestures if they are to obey them. Officers are trained during basic mandate in manual traffic direction and control. Officers will follow the procedures detailed in the Georgia Police Officer Reference Text Traffic Direction and Control (section 6.5) for the proper use of hand signals and gestures.

There are numerous reasons why verbal commands are not used. Verbal orders are not easy to give or understand and often lead to misinterpretations which are dangerous. An order which is shouted can antagonize the motorist.

Occasionally, a driver or pedestrian will not understand the officer's directions. When this happens, the officer should move reasonably close to the person and politely and briefly explain his directions. No officer shall exhibit loss of temper by shouting or otherwise

indicate antagonism toward those who do not understand or who do not wish to obey the officer's directions.

The flashlight can be used to halt traffic. To stop traffic, slowly swing the beam of light across the path of oncoming traffic. The orange traffic cone shall be attached to the end of the flashlight when directing traffic. After the driver has stopped, arm signals may be given in the usual manner with the vehicles headlights providing illumination.

Assistance to Highway/Roadway Users (02-23-09)

Members of the Department will make every effort to assist highway users in need of information, directions or mechanical assistance. To that end, the following procedures will apply:

- A. Requests for information, directions or assistance will be handled as a normal function of a Department member's duties. In those instances where the information or location is unknown, a request will be made to another officer or to Communications for the information.
- B. Personnel who observe motorists stranded on the highways or roads will either lend assistance or, if enroute to a call or otherwise committed, will notify Communications to dispatch an available unit.
- C. In lending assistance, officers are authorized to transport stranded citizens to nearby service facilities or a telephone to summon aid and for their protection. Transports out of the officer's assigned zone will first be cleared with a supervisor.
- D. In cases of mechanical failure, if the citizen cannot obtain aid from private resources in a reasonable amount of time and the vehicle is a traffic hazard, the City contract wrecker service will be called to remove the vehicle to the wrecker service or a repair facility. The officer will remain with any vehicle which presents a traffic hazard until it is removed from the roadway.
- E. Officers shall not use their push bumpers for the purpose of removing a vehicle from the roadway or in an attempt to get a vehicle from one location to another. The only exception shall be in situations where an immediate danger or emergency exists and a supervisor has approved the use of the push bumpers.
- E. If the incident is the result of a fire or medical emergency, the officer will summon assistance through Communications and remain at the scene until the situation is resolved.
- F. If hazardous highway or road conditions are present, and the officer cannot safely correct the hazard, the officer will contact communications to notify the appropriate entity to remedy the hazardous condition. The officer will remain at the location that presents the hazardous condition until it is corrected.