

POLICE COMMISSION TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

July 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

**Council Chambers, City Hall
111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT**

PRESENT:

Sue Tyler, Council Member/Police Commissioner
John Leone, Former Bristol Mayor
Tom Lavigne, Retired Police Officer
Rory Ghio, Police Commissioner
Paul Lemieux, Commissioner

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Sue Tyler called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Leone made a motion to APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13, 2025 MEETING,
Seconded by Tom Lavigne.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Tom Lavigne made a motion to AMEND THE MINUTES CHANGING THE DATE FROM MARCH 13, 2025
TO APRIL 15, 2025, Seconded by Paul Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was held on the following:

- Paul Lemieux handed out a Department Traffic Unit Survey he conducted with several similar departments. (copy attached)
- A discussion regarding the temporary addition of patrol officers to the traffic division. Our current special assignments are for 6 months. A suggestion was made about making special assignments for 9 months. Based on the Department's staffing needs.
- Chief Morello discussed how our motor vehicle stats have increased, but crashes are not decreasing. Sue Tyler questioned whether we are hitting the right areas, given that the stats show crashes are not decreasing.
- A discussion was held regarding creating a perception of how obeying the traffic laws when driving through Bristol, because the Police Department is enforcing the laws.
- Traffic Grants were discussed. Asking for statistics from the Traffic Grants.

6. ANY OTHER MATTER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING.

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Paul Lemeiux made a motion to ADJOURN, Seconded by Tom Lavigne.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

The Police Commission Traffic Sub-committee meeting for the 15th day of July 2025 was hereby adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Lisa Ziogas

Recording Secretary

Department Traffic Unit Survey

Departments of similar size to Bristol were asked about their traffic units. Responses are below with corresponding department.

East Hartford

How many officers assigned permanently?

We have 4 fulltime officers to include myself (Sgt) and we are overseen by a parttime Lt. I have tried to get another officer whether it be FT/PT but due to staffing issues that is "on hold." We also have our own vehicles assigned to us-they are not take-home.

Do you investigate all MVA's in town if available?

We DO NOT investigate any MVA's unless we decide to do so. This has been a topic of conversation, but the chief and I always come back to the point of, if we take time to do the MVA's then that reduces our enforcement/education efforts (and we wouldn't have time to do anything else). Enforcement/education is a huge effort here.

Do you have a first and second shift?

I have the ability to flex my schedule which is key. I have 2-day shift officers that start at 0700hrs and one officer that comes in at noon. Our schedules are 9.5 hours. We have had an officer work strictly evenings but found that the need for him after 2130/2200hrs was not productive thus the schedule change.

What other functions do the officers partake in? i.e.: child seat installations etc.?

1. I re-started the child seat installation about 4 years ago (after a 20+ year hiatus) and was making it a part of the onboarding to be part of the traffic unit.
2. Two of my officers are instructors so anything traffic related they are teaching the new recruits and anything on a reoccurring basis they take care of (Stop Sticks, Star Chase, civilian crossing guards, etc.)
3. We work with town hall on blight issues (involving MV's) and the enforcement of illegal repair facilities/"chop shops"
4. We are finally approved to work with the enforcement side of our regional traffic unit (Metro Traffic Services). We work with the Eastern Region Truck Squad and sometimes the State Police - Traffic Services.
5. We handle the location and downloads of our 11 electronic speed signs and variable message boards based on complaints.
6. We were also able to piggyback on a public works software that the town was using for service tracking, etc. We designed the traffic unit portion about 1+ year ago and it works beautifully. This allows the public to input their complaint or service request into the system then we get notified of it. We can then respond within 10

days to address. The public is able to see what we are doing as our enforcement efforts are all done within the vehicle real-time allowing for transparency and accountability. In the past they may have seen us or not but this system allows them to track us in a sense. This has, for the most part taken the onus away from me and having to answer the phone, listen to voicemails and then complete a form which would go on the wall...very cumbersome and outdated.

On a side note, as we exited the pandemic, we were inundated with traffic issues that we needed to get ahead of. When we were allowed to, we began addressing these issues and since created what we now call the "Safe Streets Traffic Initiative". This is an initiative that runs from April 1 to August 31 and encourages patrol to join with traffic and addressing what the effort is (we try and follow the NHTSA calendar). Since starting this, CT-DOT was made aware of this by chance and we have been working together on various projects. We were able to get a grant to outfit all of our patrol units with E-citation printers. They also provided me with a grant to purchase a community outreach/traffic engagement trailer and a civilian position within the PD.

West Hartford

How many officers assigned permanently?

Currently I have six officers that are considered "full time" traffic officers supervised by a Sgt. Before COVID and staffing challenges we also had two temporary positions that were held by patrol officers. The temporary positions would last between 3 and 6 months and we would cycle officers from patrol into traffic to give them a taste for the division and give them training in accident investigations.

I have recently been authorized to increase my division by 2 and am in the process of accepting applications for 2 full time positions. The "full time" positions will last a minimum of 5 years. I will be working to get the temporary positions reinstated in the future.

Do you investigate all MVA's in town if available?

Our division is responsible for (if possible/available) all of the collisions that occur in town including the private property wrecks. When not conducting accident investigations the officers are performing motor vehicle enforcement details with a heavy emphasis on speed enforcement.

We also run our own Accident Reconstruction Team which all of the traffic officers are part of. We have a few former traffic division members that also help out with the team if needed. Every officer has completed the training to reach the level of Accident Reconstructionist.

Do you have a first and second shift?

As for the schedule, the division is split into two squads that rotate on a 2 weeks on days and 2 weeks on evenings. Based on the schedule rotation there is traffic coverage every

day (not always three working a shift) and the officers always have at least one weekend day off.

What other functions do the officers partake in? i.e.: child seat installations etc.?

We also give multiple presentations to different community groups throughout the year including a college academy, citizen academy, new driver presentation at both high schools, and senior citizen commission.

Enfield

How many officers assigned permanently?

1 Sergeant and 4 Officers. Only full-time positions. In the past we have allowed one patrol officer to work with us when it doesn't create overtime. In turn that officer gets a little extra training and experience. We may implement this again in the future.

Do you investigate all MVA's in town if available?

Traffic officers investigate all crashes that occur while they are working (only exception is the week they are "on-call" is considered an enforcement week, where they don't take crashes and only do MV enforcement. They only work the day and evening shifts. They take all life threatening and fatal injury crashes, regardless of when they occur and traffic officers are "on-call" to come in for crashes when no traffic officers are working.

Do you have a first and second shift?

Yes both

What other functions do the officers partake in? i.e.: child seat installations etc.?

Traffic officers are responsible for: car seat installs, teaching radar/laser to new officers, coordinating radar/laser calibrations, training school crossing guards, traffic control for parades, special events and road races, Drager recertification for officers, Traffic enforcement, respond to METRO traffic team towns for life threatening and fatal crashes, conduct cruiser calibrations on our "line" vehicles... As the supervisor I assist with some of this stuff, as well as participate with Zoning officials in ART meetings to review traffic impacts to new businesses, create traffic plans for special events, review crash data for trends and trouble spots, act as liaison to CTDOT and town engineering for roadway safety improvements, oversee our fleet of 90+ vehicles-including purchasing, coordinating upfitting and coordinating maintenance....

Fairfield

How many officers assigned permanently?

1 lieutenant and 1 sergeant (although 2 would be nice) Traffic officers: 4 Accident investigators: 2 Traffic (hopefully adding 1) We do not offer temporary assignments. Our Accident officers are permanent positions unless they get promoted or request a transfer. Traffic officers are in the unit for 2-3 years.

Do you investigate all MVA's in town if available?

Our accident investigators are all certified reconstructionist, so besides handling all accidents in town we also travel as a unit to surrounding towns to handle serious MVAs/fatals and assist with reconstructions and vehicle downloads. When accident officers aren't available our traffic officers assist with taking accidents.

Do you have a first and second shift?

The two traffic guys work opposing schedules the majority of the time but can flex hours anywhere between 0600-midnight. No minimum manpower as they can both take off.

What other functions do the officers partake in? i.e.: child seat installations etc.?

Our traffic officers handle all of our traffic hot spots and complaint areas that come up, in addition they provide escorts for funerals and security details at special events. Some of our traffic officers are also crash reconstructionists. They work the same hours as accidents guys and can flex around.

Bristol

How many officers assigned permanently

Officers- by contract 2. 4 and a sergeant currently

Do you investigate all MVA's in town if available?

No patrol handles most MVA's- we only take fatal or life-threatening injuries.

Do you have a first and second shift?

We currently have first and second, however, admin is having us move to all days starting in June.

What other functions do the officers partake in? ie: child seat installations etc? –

We do car seat inspections, not installations and on only certain days. Assist with cruiser service as needed. The primary function is motor vehicle enforcement.