




HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	April 23, 2021
SUBJECT:	Year End Report – Traffic
REPORT NUMBER:	21-038
SUBMITTED BY:	Ryan Diodati, Acting Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The HPS has developed a yearlong Road Safety Education and Awareness Campaign. The goal is to raise understanding of road user safety rules and gain compliance on the use of safety equipment, leading to a reduction in motor vehicle collisions in the City of Hamilton.
- The 2020 Traffic Safety Program targeted seasonal issues. In the spring/summer months, the focus was on distracted driving, seat belts, loud mufflers, aggressive driving and speeding. In the fall, emphasis was directed again at distracted driving and speeding. In addition, the Hamilton Police Service joined the provincial Seat Belt Campaign. During the holiday season, R.I.D.E. lanes were emphasized.
- In 2020 property damage motor vehicle collisions reported to Collision Reporting Centers decreased by 38%. Property damage motor vehicle collisions attended by the HPS decreased by 43% and personal injury motor vehicle collisions decreased by 18%
- The COVID-19 pandemic impacted proactive traffic enforcement in 2020, resulting in fewer interactions with the public due to prevention protocols implemented to reduce the spread of the virus
- The HPS launched a new Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) in late 2020. This unit amalgamated previous Divisional Safety Officers with a further eight new officers hired as approved in the 2020 budget. The mandate of the TSU is to promote traffic and public safety by the means of pro-active traffic management, collision investigation, high visibility education, awareness and enforcement.

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INFORMATION**Seven-Year Motor Vehicle Collision Chart**

Motor Vehicle Collisions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total MVCs	9,513	9,719	9,732	10,124	11,071	11,593	7,352
Property Damage	1,608	1,515	1,341	1,452	1,551	1,516	868
Personal Injury	1,513	1,587	1,670	1,361	1,381	1,270	1,039
Citizen Reports	6,392	6,617	6,721	7,311	8,139	8,807	5,445
Fatal Collisions	17	16	14	16	14	17	15
Resulting Deaths	19	17	15	16	14	17	15
Total PONs	65,921	56,556	54,402	49,399	46,488	49,606	42,714

Motor Vehicle Collisions:

In 2020, 7,352 MVC's were reported. This figure is down from 11,593 in 2019 (36.6% decrease), down from 11,071 in 2018 (33.6% decrease), and down from 10,124 in 2017 (27.5% decrease). It is evident that Provincial Lockdowns due to COVID-19 played a role in the low numbers.

The reported MVC data is obtained by compilation of the two (2) reporting methods that are available to the community. They can report property damage collisions by attending the Collision Reporting Centers (CRCs), during business hours, or by having an Officer attend the scene of a property damage collision or personal injury collision.

Fatalities:

In 2020, there were 15 fatal MVCs, resulting in 15 deaths, which is an 11.8% decrease over 2019 (17 fatalities in 2019). Of the 15 fatal collisions, five (5) involved a single motor vehicle, five (5) involved multiple vehicles, and five (5) involved a motor vehicle and a pedestrian.

In 2020 alcohol was a factor in four (4) of the fatal collisions. In seven (7) of the 15 collisions, speed was a factor. Other factors include driver error and/or pedestrian error.

Total Provincial Offence Notices in 2020 - Comparison to 2019:

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In 2020, 45,754 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) were issued. This represents a decrease of 16.1% over 2019's total of 54,521. This PON statistic is a combined total of **all** PONs given out at the Service wide.

Hazardous Moving Violations:

Hazardous Moving Violations (red light infractions, stop sign infractions, speeding, careless driving offences, distracted driving, etc.), decreased 6.6% over 2019. In 2020, 32,081 were issued in comparison to 34,335 in 2019.

Non-Hazardous Violations:

Non-Hazardous Violations (seat belt violations, fail to surrender permits, validation tag offences, etc.), decreased 30.4% over 2019. In 2020, 10,633 violations were issued, in comparison to 15,271 in 2019.

Alcohol & Drug-Related Driving Offences:

In 2020, there were 713 Alcohol & Drug-Related Driving Offences, which represent an increase of 7.5% over 2019. In 2019, there were 663 Alcohol & Drug-Related Driving Offences. There were 172 Motor vehicle collisions that involved alcohol and or drug in 2020 as compared to 152 in 2019, an increase of 13.2%. There is a notable increase of Impairment by Drug, an increase of 94.2%. (69 Impaired by Drug in 2019 and 134 in 2020)

	2019	2020	% Change
Impaired	243	250	+2.9%
Over 80 mg	308	284	-7.8%
Impaired C.B.H.	2	1	-50%
Impaired by Drugs	69	134	+94.2%
Impaired Cause Death	0	0	0%
Refuse Breath	29	31	+6.9%
Over 80 cause Death	0	0	0%
Over 80 cause B.H.	0	0	0%
Refuse Blood/Urine for D.R.E. exam	7	7	0%
Refuse A.S.D	5	10	+100%
Blood Samples Taken	13	30	+130.8%
Alcohol & Drug-Related Driving Offences	663	713	+7.5%

Five-Year Trend: Alcohol & Drug-Related Charges:

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Type of Charges	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Impaired	273	279	282	243	250
Over 80 mg	338	322	314	308	284
Impaired C.B.H.	2	2	2	2	1
Impaired by Drugs	22	16	52	69	134
Impaired Cause Death	1	0	1	0	0
Refuse Breath	36	43	37	29	31
Over 80 cause Death	1	0	1	0	0
Over 80 cause B.H.	0	3	2	0	0
Refuse Blood	0	0	9	7	7
Refuse A.S.D	11	7	6	5	10
<i>Blood Samples Taken</i>	0	1	3	13	30
Alcohol & Drug-Related Driving Offences	684	673	706	663	713

R.I.D.E. Program:

R.I.D.E. is a yearlong educational and enforcement program for the Hamilton Police Service. The Service also participates in the Provincial Policing Community's annual R.I.D.E. focus that starts in December.

The Provincial Government provides annual funding to support the R.I.D.E. Program. In 2020/2021, the Service received \$42,977.00 and, as of the date of this report, all of the monies have been exhausted. This funding is used to enhance day-to-day R.I.D.E. Programs, by employing off-duty Officers to focus on R.I.D.E., during special events and the Holiday Season. This report is a statistical presentation of the Service's R.I.D.E. Program.

R.I.D.E. Program Statistical Information:

R.I.D.E Program	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
R.I.D.E. Stops	224,503	182,228	136,896	86,806	48,239
R.I.D.E. Tests	219	156	138	420	128

In 2020, there were a total of 48,239 vehicles stopped by the R.I.D.E Program. This represents a decrease of 44.4%, below 2019. Due to the Pandemic, proactive RIDE lanes were suspended from April to November 2020. R.I.D.E. will again be a focus of the 2021 Traffic Management Plan.

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RIDE 2019 vs. 2020 Comparison:

	2019 Yearly Total	2020 Yearly Total	% Difference
Stopped	86,806	48,239	-44.4%
Pass	394	120	-69.5%
Warn	17	4	-76.5%
Fail	9	4	-55.5%
Impaired	4	1	-75%
Over .08	10	3	-70%
Refuse A.S.D.	0	0	0.00%
Ref Breath	0	0	0.00%
Other C.C.	8	8	0%
Roadside Demand	420	128	-69.5%
Alcohol Warn Range Suspension	17	2	-88.2%

LINC & RHVP Safety Initiatives:

In 2015, the Support Services Branch of the Hamilton Police Service developed a Problem Oriented Policing project, to combat aggressive driving issues that were occurring on the Red Hill Valley Parkway and the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway.

This project was in operation from December 14, 2015 to December 31, 2016 and focused on enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario as it pertains to the safe movement of traffic on these roadways.

Enforcement by members of Support Services Division on both roadways have continued since January 1st, 2017. In early 2019, the HPS engaged in discussions with the City of Hamilton Public Works department around how to enhance enforcement specifically on the Red Hill Valley Parkway. A voluntary paid duty enforcement program funded by the City of Hamilton was developed to compliment other planned engineering and educational initiatives coordinated by city staff.

The paid duty initiative was commenced on March 25, 2019 and was subsequently renewed twice in order to extend the positive impact on traffic safety. This program utilized two officers per day working up to 6 hours at a time. Their only focus was enforcement on this highway.

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The program started at 9 am and ended at 9 pm. Two vehicles with speed detection equipment were assigned, and officers could sign up for a 9am – 3pm or 3pm – 9 pm paid duty.

Below are enforcement statistics reflecting police action on both roadways since 2015. These values do not include the results of the 2019-2020 City of Hamilton / HPS Voluntary Paid Duty program initiative.

LINC & RHVP 2015-Present (Support Services Division Enforcement) TOTALS:
Total PONs issued = 13,632
Total Stunting = 114
Total Part III Summons = 349
Total number of RIDE Stops = 56,253
Total number of RIDE Set up = 1,294
Officers used in RIDE Set up = 2,804
Officer Hours dedicated to Enforcement Operation = 9,811 hrs.
<i>Note: These statistics do not include the 2019-2020 CoH Voluntary Paid Duty initiative</i>

The 2019 LINC/RHVP City of Hamilton / HPS Voluntary Paid Duty program had a significant positive impact on roadway safety. The high visibility of uniformed officers along the RHVP was further enhanced by the reduction of the posted speed limit from 90 km/h to 80 km/h.

This was also complimented by other city engineering design enhancements including new roadway surfacing and public safety educational campaigns. The congruence of all of these factors has contributed to a substantial decrease in collisions on the RHVP.

The total funding approved for the paid duty program was \$535,308.00, and the total funding used for the paid duty program was \$535,130.26. This program ended April 28, 2020. Notwithstanding the conclusion of the paid duty program, members of the Support Services Division augmented by patrol officers from Div 20 and Div 30 continue to conduct enforcement on both the RHVP and the LINC.

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The enforcement results of the RHVP City of Hamilton / HPS Voluntary Paid Duty program are included in the chart below.

RHVP 2019 & 2020 CoH/HPS VPD Program TOTALS
Total Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) issued = 6,441
Speeding in the 80 km/hr zone = 4,706 PONs
Speeding in the 90 km/hr zone = 625 PONs
Distracted Driving = 18 PONs
Total Other Provincial Offences = 1,092 PONs
Total Part III Summons issued = 118 Part IIIs
Suspended Drivers = 53 Part IIIs
No Insurance = 34 Part IIIs
Racing / Stunting = 26 Part IIIs
Resources Utilized
Total Officers used = 720
Officer Hours dedicated to Enforcement Operation = 4,300 hrs.

Hamilton Police recognizes the importance of traffic safety on all highways to reduce collisions and fatalities. Enforcement initiatives will continue on the RHVP, the LINC and all other roadways with a vision of Zero collisions and fatalities as a goal.

Traffic Safety Unit & HPS Annual Traffic Safety Management Plan:

In 2020 the HPS PSB approved 8 new sworn positions for the purposes of enhanced traffic enforcement in the city of Hamilton. This unit amalgamated previous Divisional Safety Officers with the new officers hired to create a centralized Traffic Safety Unit (TSU). This unit is mandated to conduct proactive traffic management, collision investigation, high visibility education, awareness and enforcement. The TSU deploys strategically to addresses service wide needs in all divisions, focusing on special attention problem areas that are beyond the capacity of patrol officers and crime managers in the local divisions.

In 2020 the HPS initiated numerous specific traffic safety projects, coordinated by both local patrol divisions and centrally by the Support Services Division. (Ref. PSB 20-109) These projects are effective and focus on high visibility deployments with clear goals and sustained resources.

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In 2021 the HPS will continue to adhere to a monthly traffic safety management plan that includes an emphasis on all road users including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Motorists feature a diverse group of users including novice drivers, commercial drivers, commuters and recreational enthusiasts. Recent aftermarket trends involving modifications to vehicles include illegal tinting, mufflers and tires. These issues impact both traffic safety and quality of life, and have increasingly led to community complaints. The 2021 safety plan includes a concerted emphasis on education by means of social media, reinforced by enforcement when required.

Summary:

The Hamilton Police Service continues to work in partnership with our stakeholders to focus on changing driver behavior in order to improve traffic and public safety. Participating as a founding member of the Hamilton Strategic Road safety Committee includes a city wide focus on traffic initiatives where traffic and road safety becomes a shared responsibility between the Police, City Traffic, Public Health and our concerned community partners.

Speeding, aggressive driving, distracted driving and impaired driving continue to be the most significant concerns for the Hamilton Police Service as they relate to road safety. The HPS continues to support the City of Hamilton traffic safety Vision Zero initiative with the simple goal of Zero fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. Selective enforcement, coupled with education and awareness will continue to inform the HPS strategy in order to decrease collisions and improve roadway safety in the City of Hamilton.

RD/M. Schulenberg

cc: Ryan Diodati – Deputy Chief, Support
Marty Schulenberg – Superintendent, Support Services Division

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