

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

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Patrol releases report showing 2008 Metro Initiative successes

Statistics illustrate 40 percent decrease in fatalities and 17 percent decrease in injuries

COLUMBUS – The Ohio State Highway Patrol released a detailed report outlining successes during the Metropolitan Traffic Safety Initiatives that ran between March 15 and September 30, 2008 in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo in conjunction with local law enforcement. Statistics show a 40 percent decrease in fatalities and a 17 percent decrease in injuries on roadways that were targeted by the Metro Initiatives.

Coordinated 2008 Metro Initiative efforts by the Ohio State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement produced a 40 percent reduction in fatalities and a 17 percent reduction in serious crashes, as compared to only a nine percent reduction in fatalities and 11 percent reduction in serious crashes on roads that were not a part of the initiative's targeted joint enforcement efforts.

“Traffic crash fatalities in urban areas continue to be an area of statewide concern,” Colonel Richard H. Collins, Patrol superintendent said. “This report illustrates that the Patrol’s Metro Initiatives are having a positive impact on urban interstates and that concentrated enforcement efforts can produce meaningful declines in fatal and injury crashes.”

During the Metro Initiatives troopers conducted 11,830 traffic stops, of which 3,413 were warnings and 1,268 were to assist motorists.

Troopers cited 5,710 motorists for speed, of which 21 percent were for traveling 20 plus miles-per-hour over the speed limit. In addition troopers cited 2,026 motorists for aggressive driving.

"We are committed to our safety partners, especially local law enforcement, to ensure that we are all working together to make Ohio's roads as safe as possible," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán. "Through the hard work of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and our law enforcement partners in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo, Metro initiatives are a proven example of what we can accomplish together."

The Metro Initiatives were aimed at effecting significant reductions in serious crashes, fatalities and injuries by using a combination of high-visibility enforcement, multi-agency OVI deterrence, specialized computer mapping and a strategic public information campaign.

A copy of the report can be downloaded at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

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