



Iowa Department of Transportation

GTSB Statewide Enforcement Effort Explanation

Background

When the Iowa 5% Severe Safety Needs per Section 1401 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was first formulated, statewide enforcement efforts, as coordinated by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB), were being directed at corridor-based enforcement. Thus, basing selection and response on identification of corridors related to enforcement-related topics such as speeding, driver impairment, and unbelted drivers or passengers was initiated. However, GTSB has refocused their method of operation to promote inclusion and saturation based on regions or areas rather than corridors. Thus, rather than encouraging enforcement efforts on a particular corridor or particular topic, the efforts are directed towards covering large areas and encouraging all enforcement agencies within the areas to be more involved and capture violations across topics. They hope to foster greater sustainability of enforcement efforts and awareness of these efforts by the public in order to affect a change in mindset with regard to traffic safety.

Discussion

In essence, GTSB has divided the state into 5 somewhat overlapping regions, 3 proceeding from north to south and spanning the state from east to west (Southern Exposure, Operation Midway, and Northern Lights) and 2 dividing the state east and west (Eastern Heat and Westward Expansion). Using these 5 regions and 2 additional statewide operations, GTSB encourages enforcement agencies within the regions to participate in region-wide enforcement awareness efforts through 7 annual efforts:

- Southern Exposure - 2 days in April (southern third of Iowa),
- Operation Midway - 2 days in May (middle third of Iowa),
- Northern Lights - 2 days in June (northern third of Iowa),
- Operation "I"s - 2 days in July (statewide interstates),
- Eastern Heat - 2 days in August (eastern half of Iowa - east of I-35),
- Child Passenger Safety and Mobile Eyes Corridor - 2 days in September (statewide), and
- Western Expansion - 2 days in October (western half of Iowa - west of I-35).

Additionally, GTSB sponsors 5 Statewide Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) waves:

- St. Patrick's Day (5 days in March),
- Memorial Day/C.I.O.T. (Click It Or Ticket) (14 days in May/June),
- Independence Day (4 days in July),
- Labor Day/Over the Limit - Under Arrest (14 days in August/September), and
- Thanksgiving (7 days in November).

It should be noted that, though a couple of these mention specific programs or topics, enforcement are encouraged to maintain their awareness across all topics. The special

STEP topics for Memorial Day and Labor Day are scheduled in conjunction with national efforts.

Through these two programs, though not targeted specifically to the identified corridors, enforcement efforts throughout the state cover each county a minimum of 8 times throughout each year, hopefully encouraging sustained enforcement efforts and awareness by the public. We have discussed with GTSB the possibility of sharing the information related to these corridors with the agencies in the region who might then be more aware of the need along these corridors during the enforcement campaigns and, for that matter, in general throughout their normal operations.