New York State
Capital District Transportation Committee

Pedestrian & Bicycle Law Enforcement Training

April 30 - May 1, 2012
New York State Police Academy – Albany, NY
Why we are teaching this course

- Our vision for walking bicycling and community safety is attainable
- Law enforcement plays a key roll in attaining our vision
- The course is the first step in achieving our vision
  - Knowledge
  - Experience
Course Objectives

Short Range

- Provide law enforcement officers with basic training about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- Develop officer’s awareness as to the significance of their role in pedestrian and bicycle safety (education and enforcement).

- Show officers how they can improve traffic safety by enforcing laws for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

- Demonstrate that educating and enforcing for pedestrian and bicycle safety is integral to improving community safety.

- Encourage law enforcement agencies to adopt a traffic safety enforcement policy for pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- Demonstrate the need to develop additional pedestrian and bicycle education curricula and materials for law enforcement.
Course Objectives
Long Range

- Create a safer traffic environment for all users.
- Reduce deaths and injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Improve the quality of life in our communities by promoting a greater sense of security.
- Increase the number of trips made by walking and bicycling.
- Improve public health (e.g., obesity, diabetes)
Who Is A Pedestrian?

- § 130. Pedestrian. Any person afoot or in a wheelchair.
Who Is A Bicyclist?

§ 102. Bicycle. Every two or three wheeled device upon which a person or persons may ride, propelled by human power through a belt, a chain or gears, with such wheels in a tandem or tricycle, except that it shall not include such a device having solid tires and intended for use only on a sidewalk by pre-teenage children.
Bicyclist Ability

How and where people bicycle is affected by their ability to ride.

- Advanced or experienced adults
- Casual or novice adults and teenagers
- Children
- (College students)
Walking & Bicycling Equal Vital Communities

- Transportation choices
- Recreation
- Health
- Frugal investment
- Environmentally friendly
- Creates a livable scale
- Improve community awareness
- Sustainable

- Decrease traffic congestion
- Less road maintenance
- Better for those who cannot drive
- Building block for other transportation
- Supports people rather than autos
- Parking issues
The Highway Safety Triangle

Encouragement

Engineering

Education

Enforcement

Example

Evaluation

EMS
How We Build Things Matters

- Who have we been designing for?
- Pedestrians and bicyclists typically want to go the same places as motorists.
- Design for everyone!
Designing for Enforcement
Deaths & Injuries

Keeping Score
(Motor Vehicle Crashes)

Pedestrian

- **National** (2009)
  - Deaths – 4,092
  - Injuries – 59,000

- **New York State** (2010)
  - Deaths - 311
  - Injuries – 1,690

Bicycle

- **National** (2009)
  - Deaths - 630
  - Injuries – 51,000

- **New York State** (2010)
  - Deaths - 36
  - Injuries – 6,058
Pedestrian Injuries

- **Falls**
  - Surface holes or openings
  - Slippery surfaces (e.g., Ice)
  - Tripping hazards

- **Crashes with motor vehicles (types)**
Total Bicycle Crashes

- Falls: 50%
- Car-bike: 17%
- Bike-bike: 17%
- Bike-dog: 8%
- Other: 8%
Worst Law Violations

Motorist

- Speed
- Failure to yield
- Disregard signs and signals
- Turning and backing
- School zone congestion
- Alcohol
Receiving & Providing Education

Education:
- is important for everyone
- reduces crashes
- is especially important for children
Enforcement is Education
Target Audiences for Education

- Kids
- Adults
- Motorists
- Parents
- Law enforcement officers
Law Enforcement Officers as Educators

- Enforcement
  - Oral warning
  - Written warning
  - Citation
  - Jail

- Education
  - DARE
  - Bicycle rodeos
  - Assemblies
6 Goals of Law Enforcement

1. Improve voluntary compliance with the laws
2. Identify and correct violator and repeat violator behavior
3. Affect a behavioral change in the community
4. Reinforce education efforts
5. Reduce the number of crashes
6. Reduce the consequences resulting from these crashes
Enforcement Options

- Positive reinforcement programs
- Verbal warnings
- Written warnings
- Citation
- Arrest
Pedestrian Crosswalk Enforcement Operations

§ 110. Crosswalk. (a) That part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway between the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, between the edges of the traversable roadway.

(b) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.
Crash Reporting

Who cares?

- Crash reports are the primary source of crash information.
- Accuracy counts
- Working with the media
For More Information:

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