

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2022



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Introduction



The Thunder Bay Police Service's Traffic Management Plan addresses traffic law enforcement and road safety within the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Police Service. The *Police Services Act* stipulates every Chief of Police shall establish procedures on traffic management, traffic law enforcement and road safety. Further, Traffic safety is always one of the top concerns of citizens in most communities across Canada and motor vehicle collisions are the cause of millions of dollars in damages and the loss of more the 1,900 lives nationally in 2018 according to Statistic Canada. Nearly all citizens of Thunder Bay and Oliver Paipouge are affected in some way by traffic safety issues. This plan aims at addressing the quality of mobility and safety for all road users in the jurisdiction.

Traffic is the movement of people and goods, on and through a publicly supported infrastructure of roadways. All users of our roadways have a vested interest in traffic safety and efficiency. These roadways are publicly funded and represent a major government investment.

The ease of mobility through our public roadways comes at a considerable risk. According to the 2018 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report there were 36,743 collisions in Ontario involving injuries and 566 fatal collisions resulting in 613 deaths. This equates to approximately one death every 14 hours due to a motor vehicle collision in Ontario. This is a concerning statistic especially considering these are preventable deaths.

The adage of motor vehicle collisions being an accepted and unpreventable aspect of roadway usage has long been rebuked. Every motor vehicle collision is a preventable event. An error was made by one or multiple parties to cause a collision, including impairment. It is not an accident. These are errors that the Thunder Bay Police Service Traffic Unit targets through education and enforcement initiatives. These efforts will improve road safety on Thunder Bay roadways.

Officers of the Thunder Bay Police Service Traffic Unit are called upon as investigators for serious injury and fatal motor vehicle collisions. These officers are responsible for implementing education and enforcement plans aimed at reducing tragic collisions. As a result, the focus going forward is proactive, data driven, evidence-based planning and enforcement to reduce these preventable tragedies.

Where we are today

There are more than 1,000 kilometers of roadway in the City of Thunder Bay and Oliver Paipooonge. The following is a snapshot of the motor vehicle collisions that have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Police Service over a six-year period from 2015 to 2020. The statistics have remained relatively stable with only slight variations during this timeframe.

Year	Fatal Collisions	Collision with injuries	Collisions without injuries	Total
2015	3	384	3,056	3,443
2016	1	435	3,081	3,517
2017	3	434	3,134	3,571
2018	3	598	2,955	3,556
2019	5	397	3,209	3,611
2020	1	296	2,232	2,529*
TOTAL	16	2,544	17,667	20,227

*COVID19 Resulted in lower traffic volumes early in the pandemic.

In 2020, the following Driver actions resulted in the following number of collisions:

Driver Action	Collisions
Following too closely	309
Speeding – Speed Limit	12
Speed Too Fast for Conditions	68
Speed Too Slow	1
Improper Turn	196
Disobeyed Traffic Control	97
Failed to Yield Right of Way	260
Improper Passing	40
Lost Control	56
Wrong way on a One-Way Road	3
Improper Lane Change	12

To put these statistics in perspective, Thunder Bay Police Service investigates nearly 10 collisions per day on a yearly average, ranging from minor collisions occurring in parking lots to serious injury or fatal collisions.



Impaired driving in Thunder Bay continues to be an extreme public safety concern. In 2019, the Thunder Bay Police Service prosecuted 204 impaired drivers, 23% of those were impaired by drug. In 2020, the number of individuals prosecuted increased significantly to 299, 48% of those were impaired by drug. The additional detection of these drivers is attributed to additional training of front-line officers. The Thunder Bay Police Service trained two additional Drug Recognition Experts in 2020 and continued training in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. The Thunder Bay Police Service currently has 24 Qualified Technicians (breath), 5 Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), and 60 officers trained in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST).

Forward Focus

The Thunder Bay Police Service has obtained an Automatic License Plate Recognition system. This system simultaneously checks numerous plates of vehicles on the roadway. This allows officers to identify vehicles that are improperly plated, stolen or alerts police that the registered owner is a suspended driver, or a warrant has been issued for their arrest. This technology assists the Thunder Bay Police Service to address traffic safety in Thunder Bay.



The Thunder Bay Police Service will continue to partner with stakeholders, including the City of Thunder Bay Engineering & Operations and the Ministry of Transportation Ontario to improve road safety in the City of Thunder Bay and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge. We will use both technology and invested community partnerships to investigate collisions and improve traffic safety.

The educational, enforcement and investigative aspects of traffic management have been changing and continue to significantly adapt as new technology and training are accepted and made available.

The Thunder Bay Police Service is leveraging technology to improve monitoring and enforcement of speeding in our community. Collision data, along with monitoring of speeds in commuter corridors and areas of speeding complaints will be addressed through an evidence-based enforcement approach. New or improved technology tools will be researched and acquired to inform our enforcement activities.

The Thunder Bay Police Service utilizes a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle). This aerial vehicle, managed out of the Traffic Unit, is utilized to assist officers throughout the Service with various investigations. The UAV can take detailed aerial photos above serious motor vehicle collisions and survey crime scenes for other Branches of the Service.



The following are the TBPS traffic safety priorities for 2021 to 2022:

1. The Thunder Bay Police Service will actively seek out and enforce impaired driving violations. This will include continuation of enhanced training for front line officers to detect impaired drivers, resulting in increased ability to enforce impaired driving laws.
2. The Thunder Bay Police Service will conduct intelligence-led enforcement based on identified high collision locations and traffic complaint analysis to increase not only enforcement but an increased police presence in these high-risk areas in turn reducing collisions.
3. Enforcement of aggressive and distracted driving. This includes numerous areas of enforcement such as distracted driving, speeding, stunt driving, traffic light and stop sign enforcement. Traffic officers will continue to develop innovative enforcement and educational initiatives aimed at reducing aggressive and distracted driving to reduce collisions.
4. The Thunder Bay Police Service will focus on removing suspended drivers and uninsured vehicles from the roadways. Every year numerous fail to remain collisions occur within our jurisdiction. Many of these collisions are found to involve a suspended or unlicensed driver who was at fault. Individuals are suspended for a reason and by removing these individuals from the roadways, and having their vehicles impounded in certain circumstances, the roadways will become safer. The use of new technology stated above will greatly assist with this goal.
5. High priority will be given to the media and social media platforms. The Traffic Unit will work to ensure the educational component of road safety is publicized. The Traffic Unit will also work with the media to ensure the public is aware of the enforcement and penalties for those individuals who do not obey traffic laws. This is aimed at deterring potential offenders from committing future offences.

A review of the traffic safety priorities will be conducted on an annual basis to ensure each priority is being addressed by the Traffic Unit. Adjustments will be made as required to ensure adequate resources are being deployed to address areas of focus.

Through a variety of enforcement initiatives and by working closely with all law enforcement and community partners, the Thunder Bay Police Service continues to ensure that the roads in the City of Thunder Bay are safer for all community members and visitors.

The Thunder Bay Police Service will strive to reduce fatalities and personal injury collisions on our roadways.