Austin Police Briefing: Traffic Enforcement

Lieutenant William White | Austin Police Department

Urban Transportation Commission | November 10, 2026

Annual Statistics

January 2019 – October 2026*

- Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Arrests
- Citations
  - Hazardous
  - Non-hazardous
  - Electronic Handheld Device
- Warnings



DWI Arrests

January 2019 – October 2026

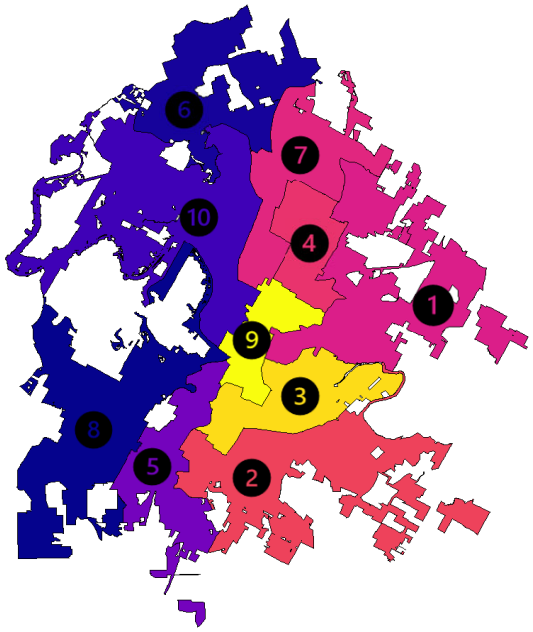
DWI Arrests by Year

38% decline between 2019 & 2025



DWI Arrests by Council District (2026)

D 1 (Harper-Madison)	= 278
D 2 (Fuentes)	= **321**
D 3 (Velásquez)	= **443**
D 4 (Vela)	= 304
D 5 (Alter)	= 180
D 6 (Laine)	= 103
D 7 (Siegel)	= 283
D 8 (Ellis)	= 83
D 9 (Qadri)	= **506**
D 10 (Duchen)	= 145



Citations

January 2019 – October 2026

Citations by Year

69% decline between 2019 & 2025 (combined)



Handheld Device Citations by Year

89% decline between 2019 & 2025



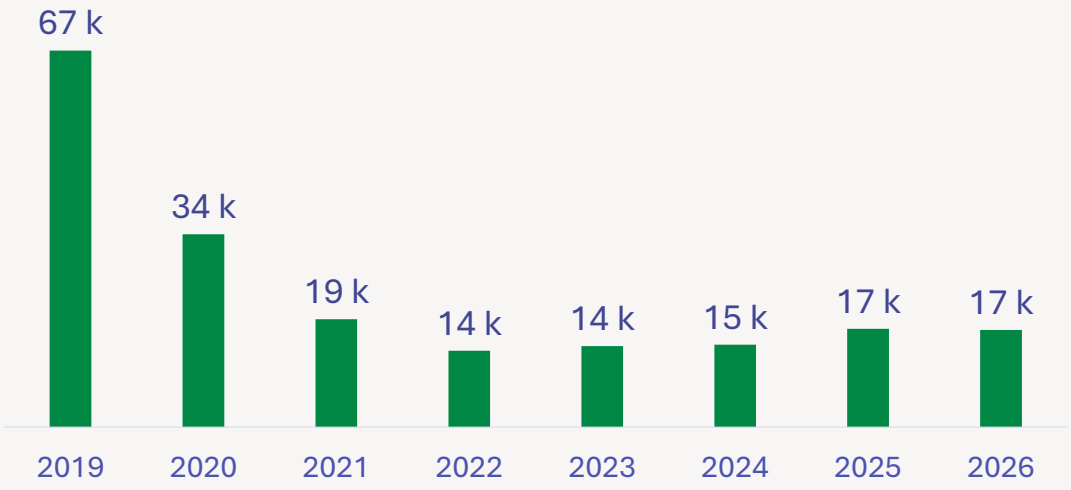
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Warnings

January 2019 – October 2026

Warnings by Year

74% decline between 2019 & 2025



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Impaired Driving Investigations (IDI)

About the Unit

The Impaired Driving Investigations (IDI) Unit's primary mission is to support and promote all Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) related activity within the Austin Police Department.

- Created following reallocation of DWI Enforcement officers (June 2021)
- Conduct investigations of open DWI cases
- File criminal charges of DWI-related title codes
- Coordinate DWI and DRE training for officers and cadets
- Promote safety through public education and outreach

Significant Accomplishments

Partnered with Vision Zero to implement No Refusal 365

Development of the APD Qualified Technician Program

MADD Recognition (2026)



No Refusal 365: Overview

	Legacy No Refusal 5/1/ 2022 – 5/30/2024 (25 months) Weekends and Holidays Only	No Refusal 6/1/2024 – 6/30/2026 365	Percentage Change
Breath	2285	2671	▲ 17%
Consent Blood	771	846	▲ 10%
Blood Search Warrant	1486	2052	▲ 38%
Refusal	1311	793	▼ 40%

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Qualified Technicians Program

- 18 officers are qualified technicians.
- Average 4.5 blood draws per night (135 per month).
- Conducted over 3,300 blood draws since February 2024.

2026 performance:

- Over 98% success rate obtaining blood when attempted.
- Over 90% success rate for each puncture.
- APD officers in line with historical EMS medic success rates.

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- In 2026: Over 98% success rate of obtaining blood from a person when attempted, and over 90% success rate of each puncture being successful (sometimes takes more than one attempted puncture).

MADD Award Recipients



MADD Enforcement Hero Award:
Officer Brozynski – Patrol
Officer Arevalo – Patrol
Officer Duran – Patrol
Officer Cruz – Patrol
MADD Outstanding Leadership Award:
Detective Day – Impaired Driving Investigations
MADD Outstanding Rookie Award:
Officer Callejas – Patrol
Officer Kinuthia – Patrol
MADD Outstanding Service Award:
Officer Sanchez – Patrol
Officer Lantsberger – Patrol
Detective Morrison - Impaired Driving Investigations

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE)

About the Unit

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Unit's primary mission is to ensure Austin has the safest roadways in Texas regarding commercial vehicle traffic.

- CVE enforces local, state, and federal laws regarding:
  - Operation of commercial motor vehicles
  - Weight regulations
  - Transportation of Hazardous Materials
  - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations (FMCSA) Safety Regulations
- Conducts educational outreach to trucking industry and roadway users about roadway safety.

CVE Unit Performance

January 1 – October 31, 2026

- 1,853 Commercial Motor Vehicle inspections
- 41% of vehicles placed Out of Service
- 8% of drivers placed Out of Service
- 123 citations issued







Traffic Operations

Operation: Twin Turbo

April – October 2026

- Traffic Enforcement Operation primarily targeting intoxicated drivers in the downtown area
- Collaboration between downtown patrol evening shifts and DRE/DWI Auxiliary Team
- Friday and Saturday nights

Action	Count
Nights of Operation	51
DWI Arrests	80
Drivers Tested (No Arrest)	61
Drivers Stopped (No Testing)	211
Citations Issued	49

RM 2222 Traffic Enforcement

Background

- Chief complaint: motorcycle activity
- Between 2222 & Loop 360
- Weekend daytime hours (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
- Excessive noise
- Perceived reckless driving
- Impacts on neighborhood quality-of-life



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- The Austin Police Department (APD) has received recurring community complaints regarding motorcycle activity along RR2222 between MoPac and Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360), primarily during weekend daytime hours (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Reported concerns include excessive noise, perceived reckless driving, and potential impacts on neighborhood quality of life and property values.

RM 2222 Traffic Enforcement

Key Findings

Austin

Noise Concerns

- Loud engine noise
- Riders often travel in groups
- Canyon-like terrain amplifies sound



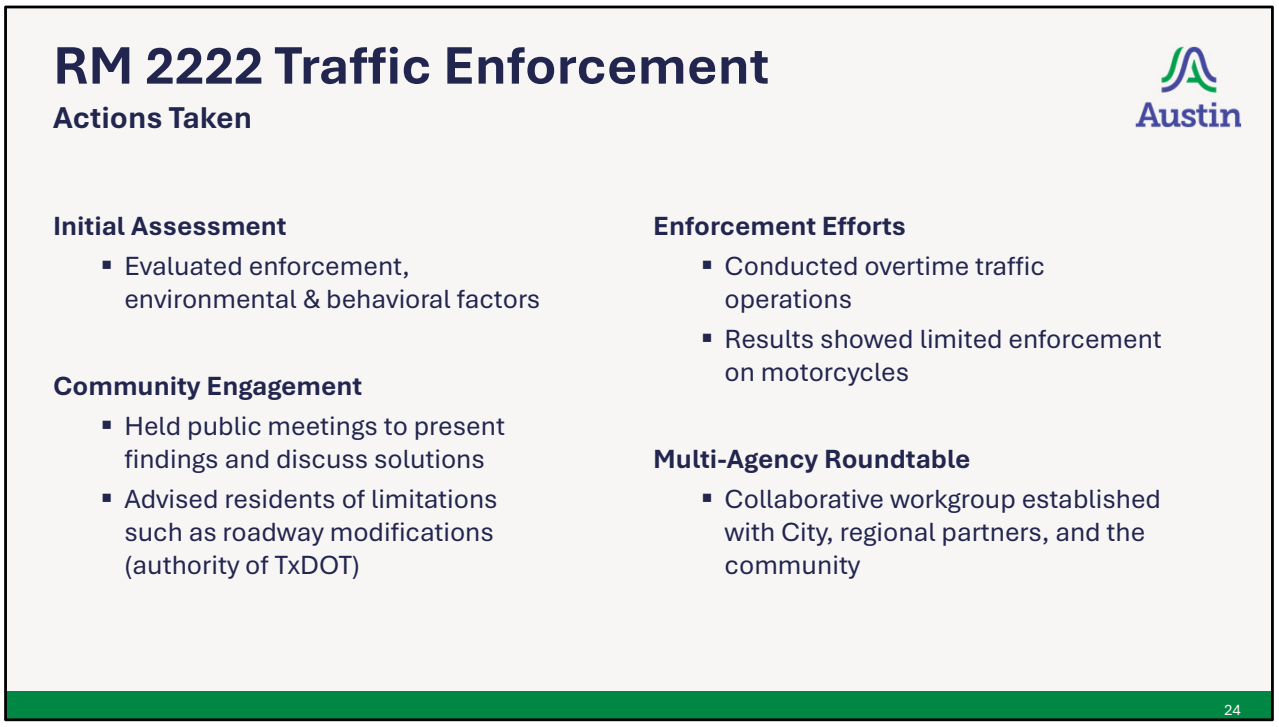
Traffic & Safety Data

- No significant increase in speeding or collisions attributable to motorcycles vs. general traffic
- Minimal hazardous violations by motorcyclists
- Citations issued primarily to non-motorcycle vehicles
- Objective data does not support a disproportionate safety risk from motorcycles

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- **Noise Concerns:**
  Residents report significant disturbance from motorcycle engine noise, particularly when riders accelerate or travel in groups. The canyon-like terrain along RR2222 amplifies and carries sound, increasing the perceived severity.
- **Traffic & Safety Data:**
  - Speed trailer data and crash reports indicate **no significant increase in speeding or collisions attributable to motorcycles** compared to general traffic.
  - Directed enforcement operations confirmed **minimal hazardous violations by motorcyclists**.
  - Citations issued during enforcement initiatives were **primarily to non-motorcycle vehicles**, aligning with collected data.
- **Perception vs. Data Gap:**

While complaints persist, **objective data does not support a disproportionate safety risk** from motorcycles. The primary issue remains **noise**, not traffic violations.



- **Initial Assessment:**
  APD conducted an assessment to evaluate enforcement, environmental, and behavioral factors.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Public meeting held in September 2024 to present findings and discuss potential solutions.
  - Residents were advised of limitations regarding roadway modifications, which fall under the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).
- **Targeted Enforcement:**

    - Overtime traffic operations were conducted along RR2222.
    - Results showed **limited enforcement impact on motorcycles**, reinforcing data findings.
- **Multi-Agency Roundtable:**
  A collaborative workgroup was established including:
    - APD
    - City of Austin departments (Legal, City Manager's Office, etc.)
    - TxDOT
    - State Representative Vikki Goodwin
    - Community stakeholders

RM 2222 Traffic Enforcement

Results (May 5 – October 26, 2026)

Type	Count
Hazardous	317
Non-Hazardous	155
Warning	893
Motorcycle	19
Motorcycle %	1.39%



RM 2222 Traffic Enforcement

Outcomes & Current Status

Austin

Outcomes

- City ordinance addressing vehicle engine noise
- Traffic study conducted
- Rumble strips installed to mitigate speeding



Current Status

- No active overtime enforcement operations occurring
- Roundtable meetings paused
- Residents remain concerned about excessive noise

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Outcomes / Milestones

- Development and passage of a **new City ordinance (9-2-3)** addressing vehicular noise.
- Completion of a **traffic study** along RR2222.
- Coordination with TxDOT for **installation of rumble strips** to mitigate speeding and improve safety perception.

Current Status

- No active overtime enforcement operations are in place.
- Roundtable meetings are currently paused pending reassessment of need.
- Complaints continue, primarily centered on **noise rather than enforceable traffic violations**.

RM 2222 Traffic Enforcement

Next Steps

APD will focus on:

- Balancing community perception and quality-of-life concerns with data-driven enforcement limitations
- Continued collaboration with the community and local partner agencies

Strategies:

- Noise mitigation
- Public education & outreach
- Legislative or engineering solutions



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Key Consideration Moving Forward

- The core challenge remains balancing **community perception and quality-of-life concerns** with **data-driven enforcement limitations**. Future efforts may require continued focus on:
- Noise mitigation strategies
- Public education
- Legislative or engineering solutions beyond traditional enforcement

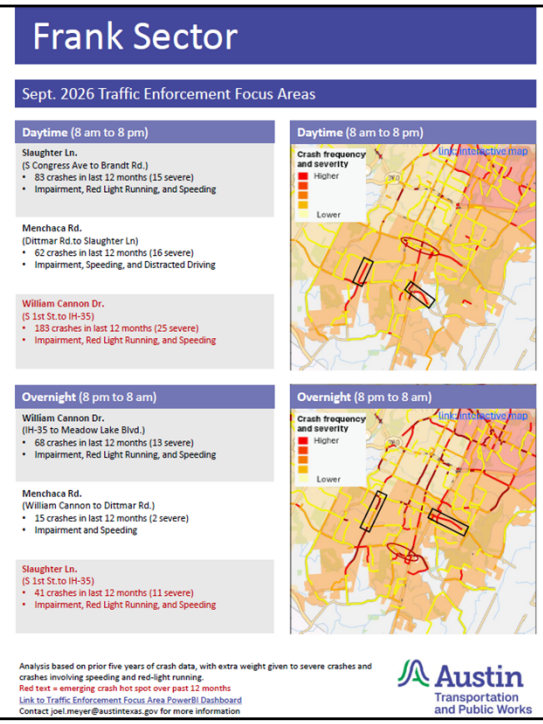
Traffic Enforcement

A Sector-Level, Data-Driven Approach

In collaboration with Vision Zero, APD sectors use crash data to inform enforcement operations.

Transportation-Public Works (TPW) shares monthly reports detailing:

- Recommended focus area locations
- Top violations/concerns
- Frequency and severity of crashes
- Time of day



FRANK sector uses the monthly "Traffic Enforcement Focus Areas" report to conduct directed patrols. Currently each day and night shift in Frank conduct daily one-hour DPs at the locations identified in the monthly report. Due to staffing and high call volume, our evening shifts are unable to consistently complete the DPs. Additionally, night shifts work a weekly DWI initiative on double shift days.

Recurring hot spots for traffic related issues are:

- Ben White Service Road EB from IH35 to Montopolis – speeding/distracted driving
- William Cannon Menchaca to Pleasant Valley (Daytime – East of 35 / Nighttime West of 35) – Running red light/speeding/distracted driving
- Menchaca Rd – William Cannon to Old Menchaca – speeding/impairment
- Slaughter – Francia to 35 – speeding/impairment

<u>Since implementation in July, 492 citations have been issued.</u>

Traffic Enforcement

A Sector-Level, Data-Driven Approach

Austin

Frank Sector

- Each Day & Night shift conduct daily one-hour Directed Patrols in identified locations of concern
- 492 citations issued since July

Henry Sector

- Day shift conducted 9 enforcement initiatives since October
- 15 citations, 6 warnings issued

Charlie Sector

- Day, Evening & Night shift conducted 14 traffic enforcement initiatives since October
- 9 citations, 13 warnings issued



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Henry:

- Top locations:
- Montopolis Drive and US 183 Svc Rd NB/SB
- Pleasant Valley Rd. (Lakeshore Blvd to Oltorf St)
- Both locations had 25 or more crashes in the last 12 months, and five of

them were severe.
- Henry dayshift conducted 9 traffic enforcement initiatives.
- 15 citations and 6 warnings issued

Charlie:

- Top locations:
- Loyola Lane (US 183 to Decker Ln)
- East 7th Street (IH-35 to Pedernales St)
- Cesar Chavez Street (Robert T Martinez Jr St. to Pleasant Valley Rd.)
- Loyola Lane had over 121 crashes in the last 12 months, 17 of them were severe.
- East 7th Street had 60 crashes in the last 12 months, 8 of them were severe.
- Cesar Chavez Street had 46 crashes in the last 12 months, 7 of them were severe.
- A mixture of Charlie dayshift, evening shift and night shift conducted 14 traffic enforcement initiatives.
- 9 citations and 13 warnings issued

Questions?

Lieutenant William White
Austin Police Department
Highway Enforcement Division
512-974-5139
william.white@austintexas.gov