

Office of the Sheriff  
County of Oakland, State of Michigan  
Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard



Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic  
Accident Prevention Program  
Undersheriff Michael G. McCabe

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**Secondary Road Patrol (SRP)  
And  
Traffic Accident Prevention  
Program**

# History of Program

- The Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) and Traffic Accident Prevention Program was created by the legislature in 1978 under Public Act 416.
- SRP is a grant program which provides funds to Sheriff's Offices to facilitate patrol operations for county and local roads outside of cities or villages.

# History of Program

- Under the program, Deputies must participate in traffic enforcement, emergency assistance, traffic crash prevention and investigation, as well as criminal law enforcement.
  - As an example of the importance of the program, over 50% of all traffic crashes occur on county secondary roads.

# Funding History

- 1978 (year enacted): SRP funding was 100 percent funded through the General Fund.
- 1991-92: SRP began transitioning from 100 percent General Fund support to partial General Fund support with additional traffic citation surcharges.
- 2002-03: SRP began to be solely funded by traffic citation surcharges.

# Deputies Funded

- 1978: 287 Deputies
- 2014: 133.6 Deputies
- 2015: 133.48 Deputies
- 2016: 125.6 Deputies
- 2017: 121.3 Deputies

This is a 57.7% decrease in Deputies patrolling through the SRP program since it began.

# Traffic Citations

- In 1991, traffic citations were mandated to include a \$5 surcharge to be deposited in the SRP fund.
- The surcharge was increased to \$10 in 2001.
  - This \$10 is part of the overall surcharge of \$40 on traffic citations called the Justice System Assessment.

# Dwindling Patrols and Funds

- SRP Deputy numbers continued to decline due to the reduction in funds which has the issuance of less traffic citations and the reliance solely on traffic surcharges.



# Dwindling Patrols and Funds

- Reasons for decreases in traffic citations:
  - Less manpower available to participate in SRP and overall tickets written
    - Michigan lost 12% of its law enforcement officers between 2006 and 2016.
  - Need to respond to violent crimes in other areas on non-secondary roads
  - Community Policing approach (more warnings and more positive interaction)

# Collection of Funds

- Across the state of Michigan, there have been some discrepancies in the collection of funds under the Justice System Assessment.
- It is unclear whether all SRP surcharges are being collected and assessed accurately by the courts and if these funds are being deposited into the fund for the program.

# Potential Fixes – Short-Term

- One-Time Appropriation or Fixed Line Item in the Budget –
  - 2012: \$600,000
  - 2018: \$2,000,000

Questions?