

**East Lansing Police Department
Policy & Procedure**

Subject: Direction and Control of Traffic	ELPD Policy #: 300-28
Effective Date: March 1, 2022 Revised Date:	Distribution: Departmental
MACP Accreditation Standard : Direction and Control of Traffic	MACP Standard: 3.6.5

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides a statement of position and establishes procedures for the East Lansing Police Department regarding traffic direction and control.

II. POLICY

The purpose of traffic direction and control is to facilitate the safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians on the streets and roadways in the City of East Lansing.

Sworn personnel may be required to establish temporary manual traffic control at any one of the following locations: (3.6.5e)

Accident scenes.

Traffic hazard locations.

Storm damage areas.

Roadway construction sites.

Locations with malfunctioning traffic control devices.

Any other location where vehicle or pedestrian traffic is impeded.

The road patrol supervisor, upon receiving information of the development of a potentially dangerous situation, shall be responsible for ensuring the establishment of a manual traffic control point, if needed.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Equipment for Traffic Direction (3.6.5g)

1. All uniformed Officers will be issued a reflective vest which will meet current ANSI 207-2006 standards. The reflective vest shall be always worn while directing traffic from outside of the patrol vehicle.
2. Whistles shall be issued to all officers to assist in the direction of traffic.

3. Patrol vehicles will be stocked with flares to assist in traffic direction.

B. Objectives and General Rules

1. The primary objective of traffic direction and control is the safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
2. The Officer involved in traffic direction and control must be able to communicate, without using verbal communications, how, when, and where pedestrian and vehicle traffic is to move.
3. The following general rules will be followed to make traffic direction and control operate smoothly:
 - a. Stand where people can see you, normally in the center of the intersection.
 - b. Use uniform signals and gestures.
 - c. Break traffic at natural gaps if possible. If no normal break occurs, break the line behind a slow-moving vehicle.
 - d. Keep stragglers and "day dreamers" alert and steadily moving forward.
 - e. Don't get excited or lose your temper.

C. Hand Signals, Gestures, and Use of Equipment The following procedures were established as guidelines to assist officers in stopping traffic using hand signals or gestures: (3.6.5a)

1. When directing a vehicle to stop, the Officer will position himself so that the side of his body is facing the traffic to be stopped.
2. Gestures will be used to stop traffic. First, point to the driver to be stopped with your arm and index finger and look straight at him/her. Watch the driver and hold this position until the driver sees you, then raise your pointing hand (but not your whole arm) so that your palm is towards the driver. Hold this position until he/she stops.
3. Traffic from both directions must be stopped to allow traffic on the cross street to move. Stop the traffic coming from one direction first, then from the other. After traffic in one direction has been stopped with one hand, hold that hand in the stop position and turn to the

other direction and repeat the process. Do not lower either arm until vehicles approaching from both directions have stopped.

4. To start traffic moving again, point toward the vehicle that is to begin moving and hold this position until you get the driver's attention. Swing your arm in a circular motion and point in the direction you would like for them to go.
5. The whistle may be used at any time to attract the attention of drivers and pedestrians and to convey your intentions.
6. Flashlights and/or illuminated traffic batons shall also be used anytime traffic is being directed at night or during inclement weather when visibility is poor.

D. Traffic Control at Fire Scenes (3.6.5c)

1. The fundamental task of this Department's personnel engaged in traffic direction and control at fire scenes will be to maintain access to and egress from the scene by fire and other emergency vehicles. Officers responding to the scene of a fire will ensure that the following rules are observed in regard to traffic control:
 - a. No vehicles will be allowed to drive into the block where fire vehicles are parked and operating.
 - b. No vehicle shall be allowed to drive over fire hoses without the approval of the on-the-scene Fire Commander.
 - c. Vehicles that are parked or interfere with firefighting operations may be towed as necessary.

E. Traffic Control at Special Events (3.6.5c)

1. The Department shall provide only that degree of traffic direction and control service in support of special events as is necessary. The primary task of Departmental personnel conducting traffic direction and control in support of a special event is to assist motorists and/or pedestrians in the vicinity of the event. The Department's Uniform Division Commander shall be responsible for the preparation of a traffic control operational plan that shall include:
 - a. Ingress and egress of vehicles and pedestrians
 - b. Provisions for parking

- c. Provisions for spectator control
- d. Public transportation
- e. Provisions for the news media
- f. Alternate routes for through traffic
- g. Provisions for temporary traffic control and parking prohibitions
- h. Adequate emergency service access.

F. Traffic Control During Adverse Road and Weather Conditions (3.6.5d)

1. In the event of severe or adverse weather conditions, the Uniform Division Commander or Road Patrol Supervisor shall be responsible for notifying any agency which may be affected by or needed to help control traffic or road conditions to prevent accident or injuries from occurring.
2. The Uniform Division Commander or Road Patrol Supervisor will also notify Emergency Medical Service, the Public Works Department and the Fire Department of adverse road conditions which might affect the general public.
3. The Uniform Division Commander or Road Patrol Supervisor may close a street, if in their opinion, the surface conditions and terrain are unusually hazardous.
4. Departmental personnel will provide traffic direction and control services and scene protection services in the vicinity of adverse road and weather conditions, when appropriate.
5. Barricades and other temporary traffic control devices are appropriate when an entire roadway or intersection must be closed for an extended period.

G. Traffic Control During Critical Incidents

1. Department's personnel engaged in traffic direction and control at critical incident scenes will:
 - a. Establish a traffic perimeter around the scene at the direction of the Incident commander.

- b. Maintain access to and egress from the scene of the critical incident for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- c. Establish an exit corridor in the event of an evacuation.
- d. Prohibit spectators and non-emergency vehicles from entering the scene.
- e. Refer all media inquiries to the Public Information Officer or Road Patrol Supervisor.

H. Traffic Control at Scenes of Traffic Collisions (3.6.5b,f)

1. Officer(s) will secure the scene by establishing a safe traffic pattern around the scene by parking their patrol vehicle in such a manner as to protect the scene, protect the injured, preserve evidence, and protect the public from further harm.
2. Traffic direction around the scene should be established using overhead emergency lights, hand traffic direction, traffic cones and/or flares patterns.
3. Flares are useful to warn motorists or direct the flow of traffic on a temporary basis. However, flares shall not be used when spilled fuels, hazardous materials, etc. are present.
4. Traffic cones are also useful when diverting traffic from one lane to another lane, or when moving traffic around the scene for a period of time. Traffic cones are available from the Fire Department.
5. Temporary traffic control devices which include movable barriers, temporary signs and traffic cones may be utilized during peak traffic hours or while an Officer is investigating a traffic accident.
6. Officers should be cognizant of the need to open roadways as soon as safely possible to ensure normal traffic patterns can resume.
7. Manual Operation of Traffic Signals In certain situations, Officers may be required to manually operate traffic control signal lights. This will normally be done in an attempt to recycle a signal light or to place the signal lights on flashing. Manual operation of traffic signals will be authorized when:
 - a. School crossing is in effect.
 - b. Pedestrian traffic at special events warrants such action.

- c. Assisting traffic engineers during maintenance work.
 - d. Necessary to facilitate movement at traffic accidents or other emergencies.
 - e. Traffic congestion is such that normal cycling of a traffic signal is not sufficient to handle the traffic flow.
8. Normally, the supervisor on duty will have access to the signal control box. The supervisor or an Officer shall ensure that the signal control box is secure at the completion of the assignment.

IV. CANCELLATIONS

None

Authorized By:



Kim Johnson, Chief of Police

Index as: Traffic Direction and Control Reflective Vest Barricades Temporary Traffic Control Devices Standard 3.6.5 General Order: 702 Traffic Direction and Control Revised Effective: 06-04-19 Page 7 Application: This directive constitutes department policy, and is not intended to enlarge the employer's or employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims insofar as the employer's or employee's legal duty as imposed by law.