



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

To fully realize the benefits that traffic safety initiatives confer in the areas of public safety, quality of life, and community-police engagement, law enforcement agencies must invite community members to take an active role in setting traffic safety priorities. One of the most effective ways to do that is to conduct a Traffic Safety Community Assessment.

About the Community Assessment

The example community assessment below invites members of the community to assess their law enforcement agency's responses to traffic-related issues in the community and to provide feedback on community confidence in the law enforcement agency's traffic safety programming and initiatives. Using the feedback and information gathered from this assessment, law enforcement agencies can:

- Evaluate internal strengths and challenges when responding to and investigating incidents related to traffic.

- Improve awareness of the importance of making traffic safety a priority in the agency and its impact on officers and communities.
- Develop and enhance partnerships that promote collaboration and strengthen trust among neighboring jurisdictions; and
- Develop and implement strategies and procedures that make traffic safety a greater priority in the agency, thereby increasing community involvement, improving traffic safety education and enforcement, and enhancing community confidence in law enforcement approaches to traffic safety.

This assessment is not intended to capture all the ways in which agencies and departments can raise the profile of traffic safety education and enforcement. Rather, this tool is intended to serve as guidance to bring awareness to agencies, departments, and communities on the importance of having strong traffic safety programming, initiatives, and activities that improve the quality of life for all.

Community Assessment Questions

SECTION I: General Traffic Safety Information

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "not important at all" and 5 is "extremely important," how important is traffic safety to you?
 - 1 - Not important at all
 - 2 - Slightly important
 - 3 - Neutral
 - 4 - Important
 - 5 - Extremely Important

2. What are the primary traffic concerns in your city? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Speeding | School zones |
| Distracted driving | School bus safety |
| Impaired driving (i.e., alcohol and drugs) | Parking |
| Pedestrian and crosswalk safety | Other |
| Bicycle safety | |

3. What are your primary traffic safety concerns in your neighborhood? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Speeding | Electric bike safety |
| Distracted driving | School zones |
| Impaired driving (i.e., alcohol and drugs) | School bus safety |
| Pedestrian and crosswalk safety | Parking |
| Bicycle safety | Other |
| Scooter safety | |

SECTION II: Quality-of-Life Questions within Jurisdiction Limits

4. How safe do you feel on the roadway?

- 1 - Not at all safe
- 2 - Slightly safe
- 3 - Neutral
- 4 - Very safe
- 5 - Extremely safe

5. How safe do you feel behind the wheel?

- 1 - Not at all safe
- 2 - Slightly safe
- 3 - Neutral
- 4 - Very safe
- 5 - Extremely safe

6. Are the speed limits in your neighborhood/community at a safe, set pace?

- Yes
- No



7. Which concerns you more: traffic while you are commuting to work or traffic while you are driving around in your community?

Traffic while commuting to work.

Traffic while driving around in my community.

8. When do you encounter more traffic, and more traffic safety concerns: during weekdays or on the weekends?

During the week

On the weekend

SECTION III: Community Perception of Police Department and Efforts

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is “not engaged at all” and 5 is “extremely engaged,” how engaged do you believe the police department is in addressing traffic safety issues in your neighborhood?

1 - Not engaged at all

2 - Slightly engaged

3 - Neutral

4 - Very Engaged

5 - Extremely engaged

2. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is “never” and 5 is “all the time,” how often do you see officers conducting high-visibility enforcement and education?

1 - Never

2 - Sometimes

3 - Not sure

4 - Often

5 - All the time

3. Yes or no: Have you ever been stopped by the police?

Yes

No

If yes, how many times?

If yes, what was it for?

4. How often should officers give tickets?

Never

Almost never

Almost every time

Every time

5. How often should officers give warnings?

Never

Almost never

Almost every time

Every Time

SECTION IV: Education Awareness

6. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is “not aware at all” and 5 is “extremely aware,” how aware are you of new traffic laws that have recently passed (e.g., move-over laws and hands-free laws)?

1 - Not aware at all

2 - Slightly aware

3 - Not sure

4 - Very Aware

5 - Extremely aware

7. How would you want information about new traffic laws distributed to you? (Check all that apply)

Social media

Bulletin boards

Radio shows

Message boards

News media

Letter in the mail

Newspapers

Town hall

Postcards

Other



8. What traffic safety education efforts have you heard about in your community? (List any that apply, or N/A if none)

9. What avenues of communication would you like the police department to use to promote traffic safety programming and initiatives? (Check all that apply)

Social media

Bulletin boards

Radio shows

Message boards

News media

Letter in the mail

Newspapers

Town hall

Postcards

Other