



## ***Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives***

David Watkins, Chair

Terry Adams, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Transportation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Watkins, Vice Chair Adams, and Committee Member Reps. Gilbride, Grunberger, Moore, and Strain. Excused was Rep. Sandford. Also present were Reps. Figueroa, Jacobson; Matheny, Stella, and Summerville; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare; Frank Petise and Luke Bittenwieser, Transportation Bureau; Sgt. Jeffrey Booth and Captain Chris Baker, Stamford Police Department; and Dana Lee and Chris Dellaselva, Law Department.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. T31.027	REVIEW; Update on Vision Zero Plan; Enforcement Currently Being Used to Ensure Pedestrian Safety from Motor Vehicle Accidents. 01/03/24 – Submitted by Rep. Stella	<b>REPORT MADE</b>

Mr. DeRubeis, Sgt. Booth and Capt. Baker discussed motor vehicle enforcement with the committee. Items discussed included the following:

- From 2019-2022, every City with a population over 80,000 saw a 30% drop in motor vehicle stops, as did the State
- Factors driving the decrease are the COVID pandemic, which reduced the number of people on the road; society has been demanding criminal justice reform since George Floyd, which impacted law enforcement, and limited primary vehicle stops for certain infractions; and issues with both hiring and retention of police officers
- In 2019 there were 10,191 motor vehicle stops, in 2020 there were 4,211, in 2021 there were 3,630 and in 2022 there were 3022
- In 2023 motor vehicle stops increased to 5,500
- Despite the trend downward, 80% of the stops are consistently geared around speeding, traffic control signal violations, and cell phone violations
- Traffic stop locations have increased by at least 25% consistently throughout the City
- Complaints received are mostly motor vehicle stops; over 2/3 of the stops are Stamford residents; 80% are Connecticut drivers
- Over the past 8 months, officers coming out of the Academy are being trained in radar and laser by the SPD, so that junior officers can go out on location
- Officers can also be assigned on an overtime basis when there is a shift change. This allows 2 officers to be assigned during rush hour, when there is speeding in the areas of concern

- The overwhelming majority of the people that are speeding are in the neighborhoods that SPD is targeting, such as Washington Boulevard and the train station
- Traffic enforcement does a rotating schedule and concentrates on red lights downtown during rush hours.
- They have speed monitors that allows them to do traffic studies
- They also respond to complaints about passing of stopped school busses
- Should there be cameras to catch vehicles passing stopped school busses?
- They apply for grants to pay for the overtime funding
- DUI checkpoints require 5 officers
- Is there a way to check if temporary license plates are valid? Texas issues temporary plates by computer
- It is not legal for the police to stop someone just for smoking marijuana
- It is mostly residents speeding and they are using speed trailers to collect data in bad areas
- Representatives could use social media to get people to slow down
- The Police Department just launched a pedestrian safety campaign
- Reducing serious accidents is a top priority
- Under State law, every patrol car must contain a dash cam

2. [T31.025](#) REVIEW; Potential Ordinance Regarding Automated Speeding Cameras Near School Zones. **REPORT MADE**  
 10/05/23 – Submitted by Reps. Adams, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Shinn, Stella, Dakary Watkins, David Watkins, and Weinberg.  
 11/29/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Committee 6-0-0

Mr. Bittenwieser shared the [attached presentation](#) with the Committee.

Committee members discussed Item No. 2 with Mr. Petise, Mr. Bittenwieser, and Mr. Lee. Items discussed included the following:

- The administration will be proposing an ordinance regarding this item
- Should this be limited to school hours or all hours, to cover extracurricular school activities
- State legislation has restricted the number of speed cameras or other traffic enforcement devices in economically disadvantaged areas. This may not make sense given that the majority of speeders are local

3. [T31.026](#) APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and IPS Group Inc. for Parking Ticket, Permit and Civil Citation Management Services under RFP No. 895. **Approved 6-0-0**  
 11/13/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
 12/14/23 – To be Considered by Board of Finance

Committee members discussed Item No. 3 with the invited guests.

Mr. Petise explained that this is a new citation management vendor. There was an RFP process. There have been complaints about the permitting process in the past. This seems to be a better system. The cost is \$3.30 per ticket and \$1.70 per permit.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Watkins, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)