

# Tahoe Donner Traffic Safety Update



# COMMUNITY SAFETY

A Special Message from the Chief of Police Robert Leftwich,  
Truckee Police Department



Tahoe Donner is a mountain getaway—regardless of whether you call this your full-time home or travel from elsewhere to enjoy it. The fresh Tahoe air, towering pine trees and the feeling of peace and safety all contribute to your experience. Tahoe Donner and the Truckee Police Department (TPD) work hand-in-hand to keep the public safe and traffic enforcement is a major part of that.

The police department often uses comprehensive recording boxes to enhance their efficiency in collecting data and conducting enforcement in high-traffic areas. Through data collection from April 15–Sept. 15, 2017, the TPD determined the most common days and times of the week for speeding violations. TPD strives to foster a strong relationship and provide a safe environment to the Tahoe Donner community.

## INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT

In addition to routine patrols within Tahoe Donner, the TPD recorded:

- 103 hours of extra enforcement in Tahoe Donner, specific to Traffic Enforcement Zones (TEZs)
- 276 citations issued
- 436 stops made
- Every 14 minutes, a traffic stop was made while working the TEZs
- On average, a citation was issued every 1.5 stops

It is important to understand that taking a zero-tolerance stance on all offenses isn't the best way to improve safety or the relationship between the public and the TPD. Allowing room for leniency to educate and take circumstances into account creates a more impactful result.

## INCREASED COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

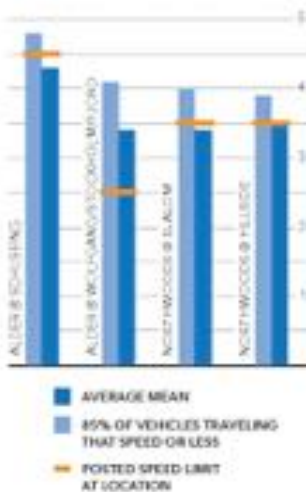
Communication is the key to education. We did the following:

- Created a newsletter
- Attended the Tahoe Donner fair emphasizing speed compliance and the Traffic Compliant Program
- Joined the door to communicate enforcement locations and philosophy
- Increased signage, radar trailers and Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) to enhance our physical presence in problem locations
- Included information in Tahoe Donner's emails, website and magazine

## TPD 2018 SEASON GOALS FOR TAHOE DONNER

- More consistent presence and traffic enforcement within Tahoe Donner, including an enforcement focus on 25 MPH zones
- Stronger social media communication of enforcement zones
- Use new technology and temporary speed radar signs in enforcement zones and complex areas
- Enhanced collaboration with the Tahoe Donner board and committees
- Develop additional traffic positions within TTD for seven-day a week coverage

## AVERAGE SPEEDS RECORDED



## CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS IN TTD



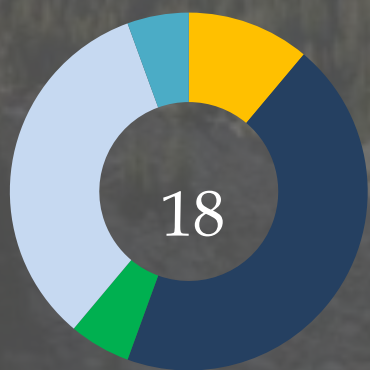
- Truckee Police Department published the *Community Safety* article in the October Tahoe Donner newsletter. The timeframe for the data was April 2017 - September 2017.

- Current data is March 2017 – March 2018.



# Traffic Safety Complaints vs. Quality of Life Complaints

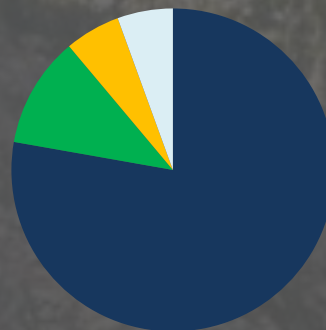
## Primary Collision Factor in Tahoe Donner Traffic Collisions



- Speed
- Unsafe Maneuver
- Other than the Driver
- DUI
- Following too Close

- Perceived problem of speeders both on the main arteries within Tahoe Donner as well as on residential side streets.
- Perception that vehicle accidents are caused by excessive speed.

## Roadway Conditions for TD Collisions



- Clear
- Cloudy
- Rainy
- Snowy

• The most common “unsafe maneuvers” were unsafe backing and failure to maintain lane.

## **Traffic Complaints:**

- **Enforcement**
- **Education**
- **Engineering**

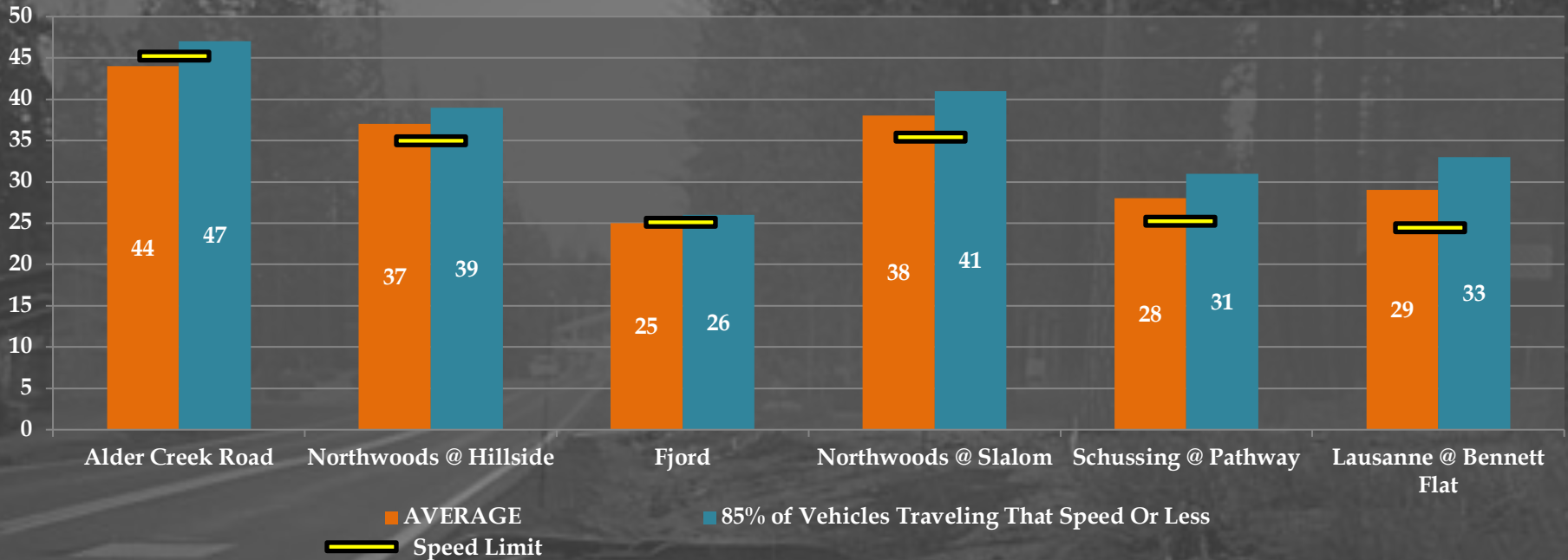
## **Quality of Life Complaints:**

- **Three-E's in addition to a more holistic approach**



# Comprehensive Traffic Data

## Average Speeds Recorded



## Number of Vehicles Surveyed

- Alder Creek Road 5,353
- Fjord 4,444
- Northwoods @ Hillside 14,843
- Northwoods @ Slalom 9,588
- Schussing @ Pathway 3,851
- Lausanne @ Bennett Flat 4,346

# Traffic Enforcement Zones (TEZ)

- Review of previous data and collect current data.
- Personal contact with reporting party.
- Establish strategy:
  - Radar trailer
  - Radar sign
  - VIPS
  - TEZ sign
  - Social media outreach
  - Saturation patrols
  - Enforcement presence
- Attempt to measure impact.
- Publish as on-going complaint, if applicable (TEZ).

**Traffic Enforcement for Patrol**



**May 29, 2017 to June 5, 2017**

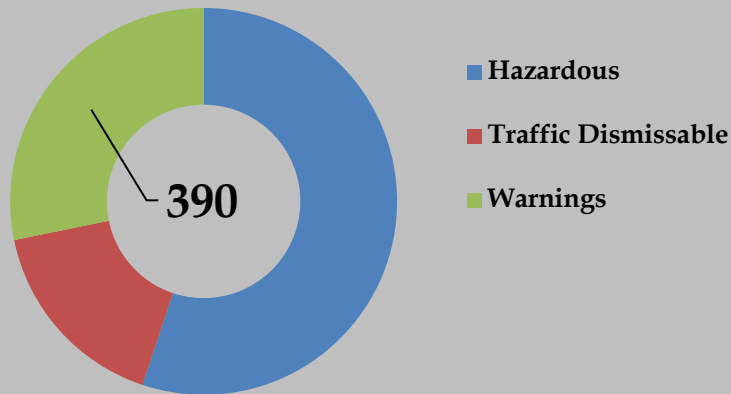
LOCATION	TYPE	DATE REPORTED	POSTED SPEED	BEST ENFORCEMENT TIMES
Tahoe Donner Area-Maximum enforcement zone	Speed and Stop Signs	5-3-17	35 mph on Northwoods and 25 mph residential	All hours. Complaints coming in of speeders in Tahoe Donner and stop sign violations at NW and NW.

## Response to Tahoe Donner's 2017 Complaints

- 171 hours of enforcement were spent on Tahoe Donner complaints.
- Every 15.8 minutes, a traffic stop was conducted.
- On average, a citation was issued every 1.6 stops.

# Traffic Enforcement Zones

## Citations Issued in Tahoe Donner



- 750 TEZ events
- 33% of all TEZ events were in Tahoe Donner.
- The average amount of time spent on each TEZ call is 40 minutes.
- 390 total citations were issued during TEZ enforcement.
- Approximately 650 vehicle stops were made.



# Future Goals

- 7 day a week coverage with two traffic officers.
- Increased presence on residential streets (25 MPH zones).
- Enhanced social media communication of enforcement zones.
- Continued use of technology and signage.
- Improved communication and collaboration with members, Board, and outreach.
- Multi-disciplinary complaint review team.





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