POLICY/PURPOSE:
The Cedar Rapids Police Department (CRPD) addresses multiple factors concerning traffic safety. This policy addresses additional safety functions in addition to traditional traffic patrol and citations.

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEFICIENCY COMPLAINTS: [61.3.1a]
Issues or complaints concerning traffic engineering deficiencies may be handled in the following manner.

Police originated complaints:
Police originated complaints regarding possible engineering deficiencies will be referred to Traffic Engineering.

- Police personnel are encouraged to complete inter-office memorandums on traffic, road, and parking problems and forward related suggestions to the Traffic Unit Commander who will review and forward any appropriate issues to Traffic Engineering.
  - Officers will have the Joint Communications Agency (JCA) contact Traffic Engineering with hazard issues which require immediate attention. [61.4.2]

Citizen complaints and suggestions:
Citizen complaints and suggestions should be directed to Traffic Engineering:

- In person
- By phone
- By email
- Reporting a Concern or Request form on the city’s website.

TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL:
The purpose of manual traffic control is to ensure an orderly flow of traffic with the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and public safety personnel in mind. Effective traffic direction depends upon the use of clear and easily understood gestures and the high visibility of the person directing the traffic. Manual traffic direction may be required in situations where there is:

- A failure of normal traffic control signals
- An accident scene – refer to Accident Investigations directive [61.3.2a]
- A critical incident such as: – refer to Critical Incidents directive
  - Fires
  - Hazmat situations
  - Special law enforcement situations
  - Special events
- Any other situation determined to require traffic control
Signals and Commands:
Officers shall remain calm and professional while directing traffic. There are times when drivers and pedestrians do not understand officers or may refuse to obey directions. Officers will handle these instances with courtesy and professionalism within the guidelines of accepted procedures.

While manually directing traffic, officer shall wear a department supplied traffic vest or high visibility jacket. [61.3.2e] Officers may utilize flashlights, flashlights with traffic wands/cones, and/or whistles to enhance the officer’s visibility and to gain driver’s attention.

To manually direct traffic, officers will use uniform hand signals and gestures taught in the CRPD Academy.

Manual operation of traffic signals: [61.3.2c]
- Manual operation of traffic control signals may be necessary in the case of:
  - Accidents
  - Alleviating congestion
  - Malfunction of the signal
  - Passage of motorcades
  - Other emergencies

- Signals may be placed in flash mode if this will not cause undue problems. This will usually be completed by Traffic Engineering. Flash mode at some intersections will place one roadway light on yellow flash and the cross street on red flash, while flash mode at other intersections may flash red for all traffic.
- On occasion officers may place the traffic signals into a flash mode. This option would ordinarily be used for a preplanned event where a large concentration of traffic would need to egress through minimal intersections or for the passage of a motorcade. A skeleton key is located in the locked key box in the Command Office for officers to use if needed.
  - Officers should carefully monitor traffic at intersections, where officers place traffic signals into a flash mode, to ensure that the flash mode does not cause more of a traffic issue than the signal’s normal operating mode. Manual traffic direction may be necessary along with the flash mode.

Temporary traffic control devices: [61.3.2d]
Generally, temporary traffic control devices will be used only in pre-scheduled special events. Temporary traffic control devices may include movable barriers, portable signs, and other apparatus intended for temporary deployment to assist in the safe and efficient movement and control of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Devices will normally be placed and removed by the Public Works Department or IDOT with the CRPD coordinating the placement of such devices. After hour calls for city services should go to the Public Works’ Signs and Barricades message service. Movable barricades along with portable
and temporary stop signs also may be used in emergency cases such as accidents, natural disaster, power failures, inoperable traffic signs, etc.

In the event of a prolonged incident requiring traffic to be diverted, officers may request the assistance of the city’s Public Works Department or the IDOT to furnish adequate traffic control devices.

**Adverse Road and Weather Conditions:** [61.3.2b; 61.4.2]
Adverse road and weather conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- **Hazards such as:**
  - Accident debris
  - Downed power lines
  - Fallen trees/tree limbs
  - Disabled vehicles
  - Serious or fatal car accident investigations

- **Acts of nature hazards:**
  - Fog
  - Flooding
  - Snow
  - Ice

- **Engineering hazards:**
  - An extensive water main break
  - A hazardous cavity or buckling of the roadway
  - Power outages to traffic control devices

Upon discovering an adverse road or weather condition affecting safe roadway travel, officers should notify JCA in order that the proper notifications may be made to correct the situation. [61.3.2b; 61.4.2]
Depending upon the circumstances, officers also may need to:

- Warn traffic by means of squad car emergency lights
- Request additional units
- Advise JCA to request IDOT to warn traffic with the use of overhead signs on I380 and Hwy 30
- Use traffic cones
- Request warning signs and barricades from Traffic Engineering or IDOT
- Temporarily close or reroute traffic
  - Refer to IDOT pre-established diversionary routes

Officers will provide traffic direction, control services, and scene protection in the vicinity of adverse road and weather conditions, until the problem is corrected or protected by temporary traffic control devices.
Information concerning ongoing and developing hazards which have been identified will be disseminated at roll call, via radio communications, via Mobile Data Computer (MDC), or by any on-duty supervisor or other department member as the need arises.

**ESCORTING VEHICLES: [61.3.3]**
Requests for non-emergency escorts should be referred to the Special Operations Commander. Escort services may be provided in situations where such services would be advantageous to traffic control and direction. If necessary, members will be assigned to key intersections to ensure safe passage. Escorts may include, but are not limited to:
- Motorcades
- Funerals
- Oversized/hazardous loads
- Parades

The CRPD does not provide oversight for private escort services of oversized vehicles and hazardous cargo carriers.

Officers will not provide escorts for the following:
- Individuals requesting a police/medical escort for a medical emergency.
  - Officers should notify JCA and request medical assistance.
  - Depending upon the circumstances, officers may consider allowing the citizen to continue on without delay.
- Any additional emergency vehicles including but not limited to ambulances and fire trucks.
  - This exclusion does not apply to authorized motorcades.

**DRIVER RE-EXAM: [61.1.11]**
Routine enforcement, accident reporting, and other investigations may result in the discovery of drivers who should be recommended for re-exam to the IDOT - Office of Driver Services. This impairment may be due to physical/mental deficiencies, disease, and lack of driving ability, which might prevent the person from exercising reasonable care when operating a motor vehicle.

An officer who encounters such a driver should complete a Driver's Re-Examination Form located in TraCS. After completion, TraCS will submit the form to the IDOT - Office of Driver Services. This form is in addition to any other reports related to the incident for which the driver was stopped or contacted. It is not required for an officer to take enforcement action prior to the referral of a driver for re-examination. If the officer believes there is an immediate safety concern due to diminished driving skills, alternate transportation should be encouraged.
- Requests from non-accident situations will require officers to print the TraCS report and submit to the Traffic Unit.
The Traffic Unit will forward the report on to the State.

**Assistance to Stranded Motorists: [61.4.1]**

While assisting with stranded motorists, CRPD officers will:
- See to the general welfare of subjects involved.
- Assist in ensuring that subjects are safe on the scene of an incident. This may be accomplished by:
  - Positioning their squad car in a reasonable manner and use emergency lighting to warn other traffic.
  - Offering to have subjects sit in a police vehicle until the subjects can be moved or an alternate transportation arrives.
  - Determining a tow to take place at an alternate time.
  - Giving a ride to a safe location if needed.
    - Mileage must be given over the radio.
- Assist in obtaining towing or repair services for subjects with disabled vehicles.
- Call for any other services needed such as area ambulance, or the fire department.

**Motor Vehicle Lockouts:**

Under most circumstances, officers of the CRPD are not permitted to unlock vehicles.
- If a child or pet is in a locked vehicle, officers will request JCA to dispatch the Cedar Rapids Fire Department (CRFD) to the scene.
  - An officer will stand by while CRFD gains entry.
- If conditions warrant, or at the request of person in possession of the vehicle, an officer may damage a vehicle to rescue a child or animal showing effects of heat or cold exposure.

**Roadside Safety Checks: [61.1.6d]**

The Cedar Rapids Police Department does not routinely conduct roadside safety checks. When conducted, Traffic Safety Checkpoints will be pre-arraigned by the Traffic Unit Commander and authorized by the Chief of Police and the Linn County Attorney.