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Long-Term Road Closure and Traffic Emergency Response Team (TERT)		



I. Introduction

- A. The Traffic Emergency Response Team (TERT) is made up of personnel from the Division of Police and other City of Columbus divisions who are contacted to respond and assist with the rerouting of traffic in emergency situations when there is a complete or partial closure of major arterial city streets or freeways **to include** I-70, I-71, I-270, I-670, SR 315, SR 33, and SR 104. TERT members will respond when contacted by the Columbus Division of Police Communications Bureau. Responding TERT personnel should have a picture ID card showing their name and city division, and should be given access to closed streets or freeways. Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel will be contacted and will also respond for closures of I-70, I-71, I-270, and I-670.
- B. Traffic Engineering Emergency Vehicle 730 is operated by personnel from the City of Columbus Transportation Division and is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. If an emergency situation requires the repair of a traffic signal or placement of temporary traffic control devices, such as portable stop signs, personnel should request Communications Bureau personnel contact Emergency Vehicle 730 **to respond**.

II. Policy

- A. Sworn supervisors should request that TERT personnel respond to emergency situations in which major arterial city streets or freeways will be closed for more than two hours and will cause significant traffic delays. Supervisors should take into account the time of day, location, ongoing local events, and any other factors that the closure may affect against the need to quickly re-establish traffic flow before requesting TERT personnel.
- B. Sworn supervisors shall work in conjunction with TERT and any other responding personnel to develop and implement a plan to re-route traffic and re-establish normal traffic flow as soon as practical. For situations affecting city streets, Patrol Bureau personnel should be used **unless assistance from Traffic Bureau was requested and Traffic Bureau personnel have assumed control**. For situations affecting freeways, Traffic Bureau personnel should be used with assistance from Patrol Bureau personnel as needed. Supervisors should assign sworn personnel to the incident while ensuring police service is not greatly affected.

III. Procedures

A. Complete or Partial Road Closure

1. First Responding Sworn Personnel
 - a. Notify the affected precinct supervisor and/or Freeway Patrol supervisor of the situation and provide an estimate of how long the roadway may be closed.
 - b. If needed, close off the roadway. Request additional personnel as needed.
 - c. Work traffic control until either relieved or normal traffic flow is re-established.
 - d. If a traffic crash is involved, either **begin the investigation** or ensure sworn personnel are responding to complete an investigation. Request Columbus Division of Fire personnel as needed.
2. Sworn Supervisor
 - a. Acknowledge the Communications Bureau Dispatcher when notified of the incident.
 - (1) For incidents involving mainly city streets, a supervisor covering the affected precinct should assume control. If available, **the** Motorcycle Unit will respond and assume control.
 - (2) For incidents involving mainly freeways, a Freeway Patrol supervisor should assume control.
 - b. If TERT is not needed:
 - (1) Ensure sworn personnel are assigned to work traffic control until normal traffic flow is re-established.
 - (2) If a traffic crash is involved, ensure sworn personnel are assigned to investigate.
 - (3) Monitor the situation and direct as needed.
 - c. If TERT is needed:
 - (1) Order the roadway closed.
 - (2) Ensure the zone lieutenant, the affected precinct supervisor, and a Traffic Bureau supervisor are notified.
 - (3) Respond and establish a Command Post.
 - (4) Establish a separate radio talk-group for responding personnel. Use radio channel Traffic 1, if available.
 - (5) Contact the Communications Bureau supervisor and:
 - (a) Notify of the traffic closure.
 - (b) Request TERT response.
 - (c) Advise of the location of the Command Post.
 - (d) Advise of the separate radio talk-group being used.

- (6) Assign sworn personnel to respond as needed.
 - (7) If a traffic crash is involved, ensure sworn personnel are assigned to investigate.
 - (8) Work with TERT and responding personnel to establish and implement a plan to re-route traffic.
 - (9) Contact the Patrol Administration **on** Sergeant and establish a rotation list for sworn personnel working traffic if the closure will be for more than two hours.
3. Communications Bureau Supervisor
- a. When notified by a sworn supervisor that TERT is needed:
 - (1) Make the appropriate emergency contacts to notify TERT.
 - (2) Ensure the Columbus Fire Division is notified.
 - (3) Notify Public Information Unit personnel.
 - b. Assign a Communications Technician to monitor the radio talk-group used for the incident.