



Understanding High Traffic Hazard Routes

Commander Dave Mowery

Background of High Hazard Traffic Zones

- On December 4, 2023, CCRMC 11-1202(h) was passed to authorize the City to establish High Traffic Hazard Routes.



CCRMC 11-1202(H)

(h) Section 617 shall be added to the Model Traffic Code to read as follows:

617. High traffic hazard routes.

(1) The city may designate streets and highways within its jurisdiction as high traffic hazard routes based upon relevant factors, including, but not limited to, history of traffic accidents, history of traffic violations, or conditions on the street or on adjacent property that might contribute to causing hazards, such as limited sight

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Exhibit A to Ordinance 2553

distance, side street traffic, pedestrian traffic, construction area, school zone, truck traffic, number of driveways opening onto the street or other hazardous conditions.

(2) Upon designation of a street or highway or portion thereof as a high traffic hazard route, the city shall erect or place an appropriate sign in a conspicuous place immediately preceding the commencement of a high-traffic hazard route notifying the public that increased penalties for traffic violations are in effect in such zone. A second sign shall be erected after such zone indicating that the increased penalties for traffic violations are no longer in effect.

(3) Any person who commits a moving traffic violation in a designated high-traffic hazard route shall be subject to twice the fine that would otherwise be imposed. High hazard routes shall be designated pursuant to Resolution of City Council.



RESOLUTION 2023-131

- Resolution 2023-131 established the following zones as high traffic hazard routes:
 - **Zone 1:** State Highway 2 from East 72nd Avenue to East 79th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado
 - **Zone 2:** Tower Road from East 81st Avenue to East 87th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado
 - **Zone 3:** State Highway 2 from East 88th Avenue to East 95th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado
 - **Zone 4:** Tower Road from East 96th Avenue to East 103rd Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado



AREAS IDENTIFIED BY CCPD IN 2022

- E. 72nd Ave. to E. 79th Ave. – 288 tickets
- E. 81st Ave.– E. 87th Ave. – 161 tickets issued
- E. 88th Ave. – E. 95th Ave. – 215 tickets
- E. 96th Ave. – 103rd Ave. – 269 tickets

* Listed numbers do not include warnings



AREAS IDENTIFIED BY CCPD- Jan 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

- E. 72nd Ave. to E. 79th Ave. 418 tickets
- E. 81st Ave. – E. 87th Ave. – 161 tickets issued
- E. 88th Ave. – E. 95th Ave. – 257 tickets
- E. 96th Ave. – 103rd Ave. – 268 tickets

* Listed tickets do not include warnings



DISTICTION BETWEEN HIGH HAZARD AND SCHOOL ZONE

- School Zones and their increased penalties are designated by State law in C.R.S. 42-4-615.
- High-traffic zones are subject to double the fine for the applicable traffic violation in a designated zone.
 - Designation of high hazard zones are established upon resolution of council. Prior to designating a particular zone, the area must meet the requisite criteria as indicated in the code. For example, the designated area must have a history of high amounts of traffic violations and/or history of high traffic accidents.
 - The City must establish these zones based upon data factors in CCRMC 11-1202(h)(1).
 - Notice to the public must be given prior to enforcement and signs must be posted.



STEPS PUBLIC WORKS AND CCPD WILL TAKE PRIOR TO ENFORCEMENT

- CRS 42-4-105 provides that local authorities' traffic control devices shall conform to the state manual and specifications for statewide uniformity. This will govern how the signs will be designed and placed.
 - Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.



STEPS PUBLIC WORKS AND CCPD WILL TAKE PRIOR TO ENFORCEMENT

Signs should use lettering that is at least four inches high for uppercase letters and two and nine tenths inches high for lowercase letters.

- a. Sign 1 – HIGH TRAFFIC HAZARD ZONE
BEGINS – TRAFFIC FINES DOUBLE
- b. Sign 2 – HIGH TRAFFIC HAZARD ZONE
ENDS- END DOUBLE FINES ZONE



STEPS PUBLIC WORKS AND CCPD WILL TAKE PRIOR TO ENFORCEMENT

A conspicuous sign is not fewer than 200 feet nor more than 500 feet before the beginning of the corridor and a sign that establishes where the zone ends.



COMMUNICATION PLAN TO THE PUBLIC PRIOR TO ENFORCEMENT

- CCPD Records and Municipal Court Staff working to ensure the computer systems are updated to handle new citations in high-hazard zones.
- CCPD has posted on social media explaining where the zones are and the history of why the zones were established.
- Two weeks prior to enforcement of high traffic hazard fines, VMS boards were located around zones 1-4 stating traffic fines double beginning March 18, 2024



OFF ROAD VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES, AND ATVS

On March 4, 2024 Council asked that this issue be talked about during the high hazard zone discussion.

- Difficult to justify redirection of officers for lower priority CFS
- Many people today in circumstances like this do not stop for police
- Exploring options via technology to address issue in 2025



OFF ROAD VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES, AND ATVS

Enforcement Challenges for CCPD

- MTC 1417 Unlawful crossing of private property.
- Sec. 11-2100. Motorized devices on public property (allows for impound)
- 42-2-101 TI-A No license - \$35, \$11
- 42-2-139 TI-B Permitted unlicensed minor to drive - \$35, \$11
- 42-3-121 TI-B Unregistered vehicle - \$75, \$25

Public Concern

- Safety issue (for pedestrians and operators)
 - Accident last November – 10 and 14 year old hit parked truck – with parents permission to ride 4 wheeler
 - Quality of life issue for residents
 - Torn up turf, cut fences, noise

CCPD Policy - Pursuit

- A violent felony crime.
- Some other act of violence which requires that the suspect be pursued for the immediate protection of the public's safety.

DFR - 2025

