

Media Contacts:

[swood@kentwa.gov](mailto:swood@kentwa.gov), 253-856-5856

[cboer@cplusc.com](mailto:cboer@cplusc.com), 206-557-4309

**King County Deploys Extra Patrols to Monitor for Speeding Drivers in Multiple Cities**

*Campaign marks the first time King County has deployed speeding-specific patrols*

**SEATTLE (November 18, 2022) –** The King County Target Zero Traffic Safety Task Force today announced law enforcement agencies across King County are deploying High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) patrols from November 21–23 to monitor for drivers violating Washington’s speeding laws. These patrols are a response to recent data that suggests deaths related to speeding are on the rise.

In 2021, there were 206 deaths related to speeding, an increase from 152 deaths in 2019.

“Traffic deaths have reached 20-year-highs locally and across the state. Unfortunately, we are seeing reports of extreme speeds, which dramatically increase the chances of a crash and fatal injury. Pedestrians and bicyclists are the most likely to die if struck,” said Shelly Baldwin, Director, Washington State Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). “For these and many other reasons, WTSC has awarded funding to the King County Target Zero Taskforce for projects to decrease the number of speeding drivers and increase the safety of our roadways.”

Traffic safety remains a priority for the King County Target Zero Traffic Safety Task Force and the WTSC, and this campaign is designed to bring awareness to the state’s significant speeding problem. In Washington, traffic related crashes are the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-18. Speeding can often be a factor in these crashes.

“The King County Target Zero Traffic Safety Task Force and WTSC are proud to recognize National Injury Prevention Day, Friday, November 18th by addressing speeding, which is a significant threat to public safety in Washington state,” said Sara Wood, Target Zero Manager, South King County. “This is the first time we are deploying HVE patrols specifically for speeding, and we hope this campaign helps make our roads a safer place.”

Penalties for speeding range from $128 to $426 in speed zones 40mph and under, and $105 to $426 in speed zones over 40mph. Agencies participating in the extra patrols include the Washington State Patrol and the Bellevue, Black Diamond, Covington, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, and SeaTac police departments.

For more information and resources to facilitate safe driving discussions, please visit [www.wtscpartners.com](http://www.wtscpartners.com/).

**ABOUT KING COUNTY TARGET ZERO TASK FORCE**

Extra patrols are partially funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission with the coordination of the King County Target Zero Task Force. The Task Force brings together representatives from law enforcement, public health, health and human services, transportation and community organizations to coordinate traffic safety campaigns throughout King County. The Task Force’s mission is to work collaboratively with traffic safety and community partners to create equitable traffic safety programs to reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities in King County, WA.

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