

Presentation to the Board of Police Commissioners

December 13, 2023

Some background

A Canadian Association of Police Chiefs (CACCP) research paper concludes:

“Two ...experiments ...provide persuasive evidence that traffic enforcement efforts by police contribute to deter dangerous driving behaviours and improve road safety substantially.”

Background

As well as:

“... road safety is expected to suffer when police enforcement is reduced”

From the Strategic Road Safety Framework (SRSF)

“Enforcement plays a critical role in achieving road safety goals ... HRP and RCMP ... have committed to moving the priority of road safety forward. Enforcement is a pillar of the framework”

Strategic Road Safety Framework

... and this

“... enforcement efforts are critical elements of successful road safety programs and are necessary particularly for shifting these driver behaviours”

Strategic Road Safety Framework

... and then this

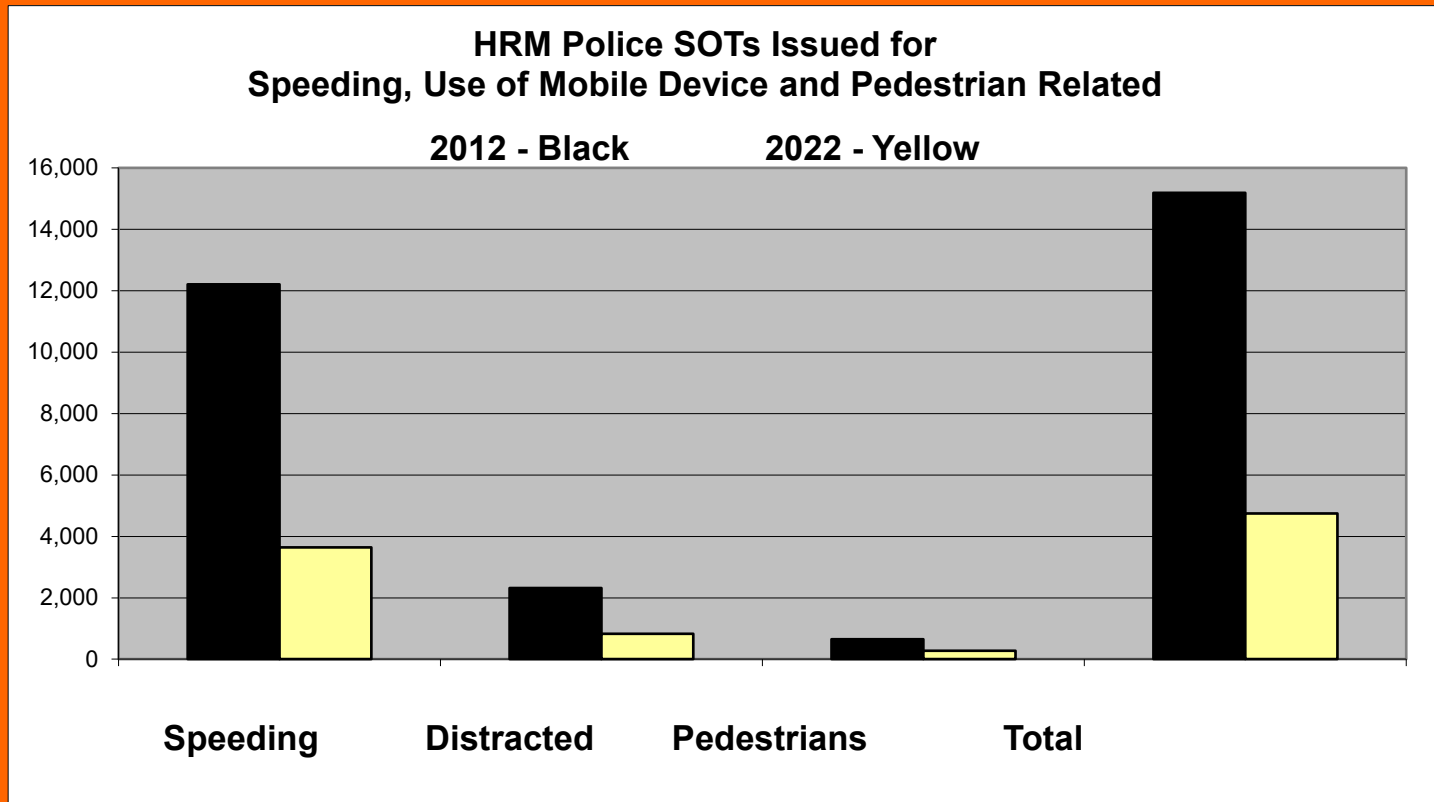
“Enforcement as well as effective communication to encourage a culture of safe driving behaviours, will be critical measures to reduce ... fatal and injury collisions”

Evidence

Does the evidence support the commitments?

Let's examine the SOT data.

SOTs issued in HRM 2012 compared to 2022



SOTs – 2012 versus 2022

| <u>All¹</u> | <u>Traffic²</u> | <u>Category of SOT</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ↓ 70% | ↓ 90% | speeding |
| ↓ 64% | ↓ 49% | use of mobile device |
| ↓ 58% | ↓ 61% | pedestrian related |

1 all HRM police agencies (HRP incl. Traffic Unit, RCMP, Bridge Commission)

2 HRP's Traffic Unit alone

Revenue

- **SOT revenue funds court costs and victim services, with the balance being provided to the Municipality**
- **from 2011-12 through 2019-20, prior to Covid 19 the amount of revenue HRM received from all SOTs averaged \$2.4 million per year**

Questions raised by the data

- why have the number of SOTs reduced so significantly?
- how do these results reconcile with the SRSF where it is presented “*enforcement efforts are critical...*”?
- since adoption of the SRSF what new long-term enforcement efforts have been implemented?

Questions raised by the data

The Sept 2023 Road Safety Steering Committee (RSSC) minutes includes:

“Safe Speeds is another area that Police can easily support through speed enforcement”

Why has that not been the case?

Questions raised by the data

- since adoption of the SRSF what short term 'high profile' campaigns have been implemented?
- what assessments have been completed re the effectiveness of any short-term campaigns?

Questions raised by the data

- **since adoption of the SRSF what examinations (benchmarking) of enforcement practices of other police forces have been completed?**
- **Based on RSSC Minutes we are not aware of any.**

Summary

**We too believe enforcement
is a pillar of road safety.**

**The data suggests enforcement is not
receiving the attention intended by the SRSF.**

**We ask the HRP and RCMP
to use enforcement to move
*“the priority of road safety forward”.***