Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Planned for September 7

For Immediate Release
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The Lake Oswego Police Department was again awarded an overtime grant to improve safety for pedestrians. This is the fifth year in a row that the Lake Oswego police have received this grant and we will once again begin targeted enforcement at crosswalks throughout the city. The primary focus of this program is to raise the awareness of pedestrian safety issues and to reduce the number of auto / pedestrian accidents within the City of Lake Oswego.

This is the second and final enforcement event of this grant cycle and it will take place, weather permitting, on Friday, September 7, 2012, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. at the intersection of Jean Road and Schalit Way in Lake Oswego. This intersection has a marked crosswalk and is located in mixed school zone and residential area.

This enforcement detail will consist of Lake Oswego police employees. The employees are assigned positions such as the pedestrian, one spotter, one video operator, and three marked police chase vehicles.

Here is how the PSE detail operation works. A cone is placed in the center of the road, or along the edge of the road. The cone is measured out to the safe stopping distance of a vehicle traveling at 10 MPH over the posted speed limit with an additional two (2) second perception / reaction time. In this case the speed limit is posted at 25 MPH, so the safe stopping distance for a vehicle traveling at 25 MPH with an additional 10 MPH and a two (2) second perception / reaction time is 161 feet from the crosswalk.

The pedestrian, who is a Police Department employee, steps off of the sidewalk, curb, or pathway, and enters the crosswalk, marked or unmarked, prior to the vehicle entering the first cone, which is set 161 feet away. The vehicle then must stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian is out of the lane and the adjacent lane. For an example, this roadway consists of two lanes, the driver must stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian is safely on the sidewalk or pathway and out of the roadway.

Furthermore, there will be a Police Department employee in plain clothes used as a spotter. The job of this employee is to note if a violation has occurred, to log it onto a log sheet, and to notify the chase cars with a brief description and direction of the violating vehicle. There will also be a video camera used to record the pedestrian and any violators.

In addition, there will be an additional Lake Oswego Communications dispatcher assigned to this detail who will be working on overtime. This additional dispatcher is used to prevent interference with the regular functions of the 9-1-1 dispatch center.

The marked police chase motorcycles will receive a radio call from the spotter if and when a violation occurred. The appropriate police chase vehicle will safely stop the violator near the area of the violation.

All PSE programs are done on a marked crosswalk with clear visibility. There is only police action when the pedestrian has completely entered the crosswalk, not before.

Citations for one or both of the below listed violations will be issued with a base fine of $260 each.

ORS 811.028
Failure to stop and remain stopped for pedestrian
• Penalty
(1) The driver of a vehicle commits the offense of failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian if the driver does not stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian when the pedestrian is:
(a) Proceeding in accordance with a traffic control device as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices) or crossing the roadway in a crosswalk, as defined in ORS 801.220 ("Crosswalk"); and
(b) In any of the following locations:
(A) In the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;
(B) In a lane adjacent to the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;
(C) In the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning;
(D) In a lane adjacent to the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning, if the driver is making a turn at an intersection that does not have a traffic control device under which a pedestrian may proceed as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices); or
(E) Less than six feet from the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning, if the driver is making a turn at an intersection that has a traffic control device under which a pedestrian may proceed as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices).
(2) For the purpose of this section, a bicycle lane or the part of a roadway where a vehicle stops, stands or parks that is adjacent to a lane of travel is considered to be part of that adjacent lane of travel.
(3) This section does not require a driver to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian under any of the following circumstances:
(a) Upon a roadway with a safety island, if the driver is proceeding along the half of the roadway on the far side of the safety island from the pedestrian; or
(b) Where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead crossing has been provided at or near a crosswalk.
(4) The offense described in this section, failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian, is a Class B traffic violation. [2005 c.746 §2]

ORS 811.020
Passing stopped vehicle at crosswalk
• Penalty
(1) The driver of a vehicle commits the offense of passing a stopped vehicle at a crosswalk if the driver:
(a) Approaches from the rear another vehicle that is stopped at a marked or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway; and
(b) Overtakes and passes the stopped vehicle.
(2) The offense described in this section, passing a stopped vehicle at a crosswalk, is a Class B traffic violation. [1983 c.338 §546]

For further information regarding this PSE program, contact either Officer Denton Veach or Lt. Scott Thran of the Lake Oswego Police Department, at 503-635-0240.

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