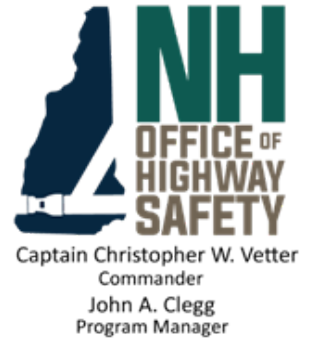




Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner



Captain Christopher W. Vetter
Commander
John A. Clegg
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

JOINT ENFORCEMENT EFFORT TO COMBAT DANGEROUS DRIVING ON ROUTE 125 CORRIDOR

CONCORD, New Hampshire – Today, the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety announces a months-long directed enforcement effort, involving a partnership of state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies, along Route 125 from Plaistow to Milton.

The nearly 50-mile stretch extends northward from the border of Haverhill, Massachusetts, and passes through the New Hampshire communities of Plaistow, Kingston, Brentwood, Epping, Lee, Barrington, Rochester and Milton. Police departments from these communities, in addition to the Rockingham County and Strafford County Sheriff's Offices and Troops A, G and the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) of the New Hampshire State Police, are taking part in these patrols with the goal of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and crashes along the heavily traveled stretch of road. The additional patrols are funded through grants from the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) and will target impairment, aggressive and distracted driving, and speeding.

"Our goal is to create a safe environment for residents and visitors traveling through Lee by utilizing enhanced enforcement made possible with funding from the Office of Highway Safety," said Chief Thomas C. Dronsfield Jr. of the Lee Police Department.

According to data compiled by the NHOHS, 4,893 crashes were recorded on the Route 125 Corridor over the past nine years. Many of the crashes resulted in serious injuries or deaths. In some instances, impairment was a factor.

"Everyone who is going to consume alcohol should make a plan to get home safely ahead of time," said Lt. Keith Walker of the New Hampshire State Police Troop A Barracks. "Additionally, drivers should wear their seatbelts, obey posted speed limits, refrain from the use of electronic devices and have respect for others on the road."

NHOHS grants allow for reimbursement of additional patrols in areas of the state that are most heavily traveled and where crashes frequently occur.

"Although these enforcement patrols are targeting motor vehicle violations, the overall goal is to reduce crashes and have drivers arrive at their destinations safely," said Chief Michael Wallace of the Epping Police Department.

Drivers should expect to see continuous increased enforcement efforts between now and September.