

LEL Case Study: Washington

The Washington State Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) program consists of 23 municipal, county and state law enforcement officers representing 17 regions throughout the state. LELs are active duty law enforcement officers who volunteer to assist in the coordination of local traffic safety activities.

A statewide coordinator serves as the conduit between these regional LELs and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). The coordinator provides training opportunities and communications to the local LELs, as well as links to state and national information and resources.

Unique to Washington State is the team approach to traffic safety where each LEL is teamed with a civilian WTSC employee holding the title of Target Zero Manager (TZM). The TZMs manage a team of traffic safety specialists of which the LEL is a vital member. The TZMs coordinate the national mobilizations, assess data and trends, manage grant allocation and coordinate media events related to traffic safety.

This team approach allows the LEL to focus on their specialty, which is law enforcement outreach and coordination. LELs assist local managers with high visibility enforcement (HVE) briefings, coordination, and enforcement performance review, assist with the overtime allocation and with other regional task force activities.

Communication between the state coordinator, the regional LELs and the TZMs is managed with the use of webinars, phone, email and face-to-face interactions, with a focus on a “back to basics” approach to traffic safety. The coordinator schedules in-person visits with LELs to help ensure they have the resources and information needed to help them make the most out of their time assisting agencies.

The WTSC recognizes law enforcement agencies that commit to traffic safety improvement during its annual Traffic Safety Conference. Top performing officers and agencies in the area of four major mobilizations – *DUI Holiday*, *Click It or Ticket*, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* and *On The Road, Off the Phone* – are recognized for arrests, crash reduction, enforcement and education.

The WTSC’s focus on ongoing communication, teamwork and hands-on interaction with LELs contributes to its status as a state with one of the lowest traffic fatality rates in the nation.

Washington by the Numbers

Population: 7.54 million
Law Enforcement Agencies: 25-300
Law Enforcement Officers: 11,000+