



Cleveland L. Spruill  
Chief of Police

# HUNTERSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** January 12, 2016

**TO:** Greg Ferguson, Town Manager

**FROM:** Cleveland L. Spruill, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Justification for Increase in Traffic Unit Staffing

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The purpose of this memorandum is to document the need to increase staffing in the Huntersville Police Department's Traffic Safety Section and to request your approval to apply for a Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant for four (4) officers and associated uniforms and equipment.

According to a National Highway Traffic Administration report (attachment 1) each year, more than 41,000 people are killed and more than 3 million individuals are injured on our Nation's roadways. The economic impact on our country as a result of these deaths and injuries exceeds \$150 billion annually. The significant and well documented increase in traffic in the Town of Huntersville is illustrated in the attached Traffic for Major Roadways Graph which shows some roadways experiencing an increase of 327% since 2002 (Attachment #2). With the increase in traffic, we have also seen increased instances of traffic congestion, pedestrian safety issues, aggressive driving, speeding and other traffic violations.

An analysis of traffic crashes in Huntersville reveals that automobile accidents have also steadily increased over the past several years. Automobile accidents increased by 8.5% from 1,848 in calendar year 2014 to 1,998 in calendar year 2015. This significant increase is also remarkable when you consider that Police traffic enforcement efforts increased during this same timeframe with the number of traffic summonses issued by our officers increasing from 4,646 in 2014 to 5,009 in 2015. In addition there was an increase in traffic accident fatalities from one (1) in calendar year 2014 to three (3) in calendar year 2015.

**\* Honor \* Professionalism \* Dedication to Duty \***

Current traffic challenges, a number of planned construction project on the Town's major roadways and the anticipated population growth in Huntersville over the next four (4) years (estimated population as high as 73,000 by year 2020) forces us to keep a focus on traffic issues and to ensure adequate staffing to address traffic safety needs.

With your approval, I intend to apply for a Governor's Highway Safety Program grant for four traffic officers. This grant provides the Town of Huntersville with a unique opportunity to increase the staffing in our Traffic Safety Section and defer much of the salary, uniform and equipment costs on a graduating scale over the next four (4) years. The breakdown of matching percentage obligation over the life of the grant is as follows:

Year 1 – 85% GHSP - 15% Huntersville

Year 2 – 70% GHSP - 30% Huntersville

Year 3 – 50% GHSP - 50% Huntersville

Year 4 – 0% GHSP - 100% Huntersville

### **Fiscal Impact**

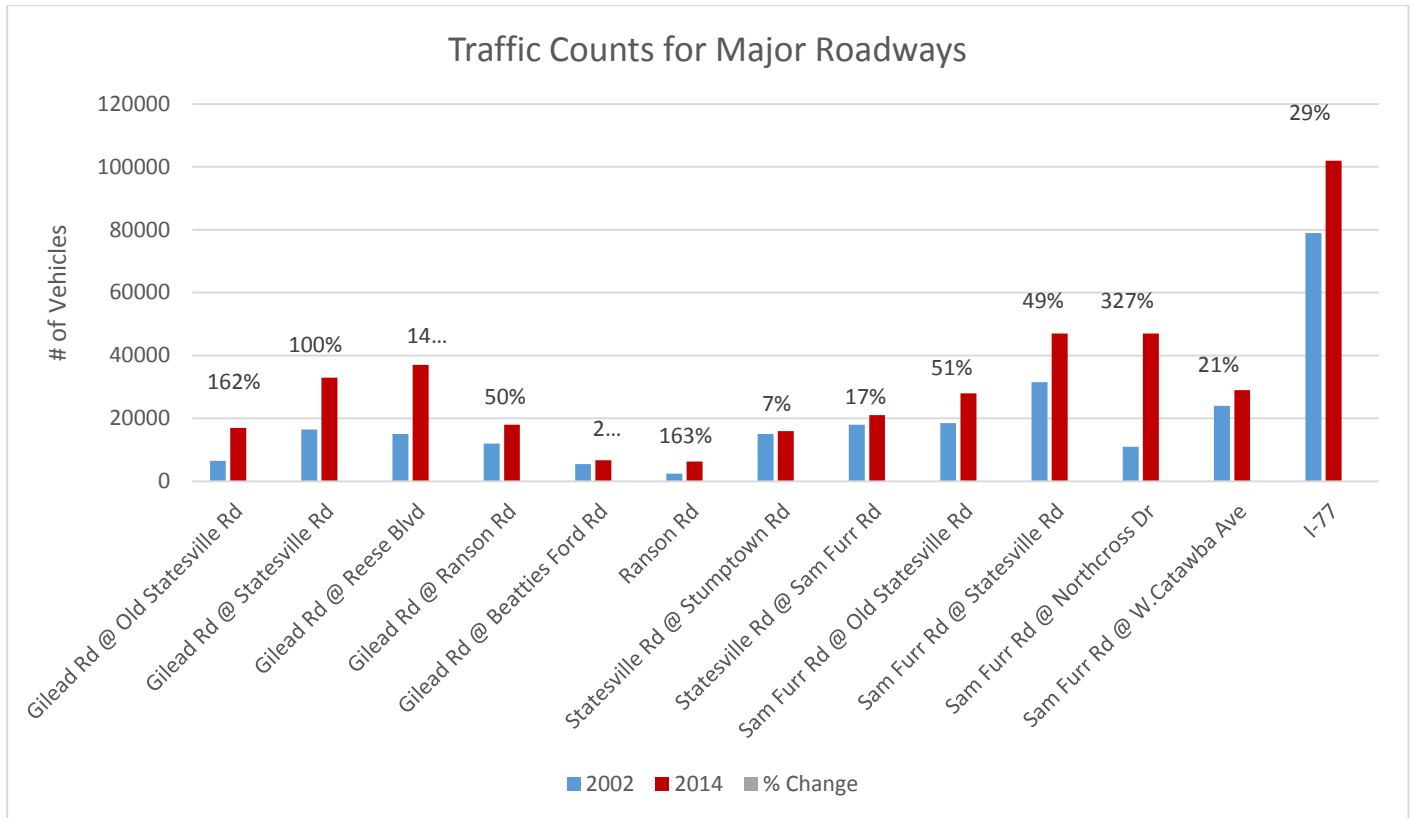
The cost associated with the grant and the matching funds that the Town of Huntersville would be required to pay are as follows:

Budget Year	Total Cost	GHSP Grant	Huntersville Match
FY-2017 *	\$430,446	\$386,879	\$64,567
FY-2018 **	\$212,019	\$148,413	\$63,606
FY-2019	\$212,019	\$106,009	\$106,009
FY-2020	\$212,019	\$0	\$212,019

\*includes cost of 4 officers plus uniforms and equipment

\*\* Includes only cost of 4 officers

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Roadway	2002	2014	% Increase
Gilead Rd @ Old Statesville Rd	6,500	17,000	162%
Gilead Rd @ Statesville Rd	16,500	33,000	100%
Gilead Rd @ Reese Blvd	15,000	37,000	147%
Gilead Rd @ Ranson Rd	12,000	18,000	50%
Gilead Rd @ Beatties Ford Rd	5,500	6,700	22%
Ranson Rd	2,400	6,300	163%
Statesville Rd @ Stumptown Rd	15,000	16,000	7%
Statesville Rd @ Sam Furr Rd	18,000	21,000	17%
Sam Furr Rd @ Old Statesville Rd	18,500	28,000	51%
Sam Furr Rd @ Statesville Rd	31,500	47,000	49%
Sam Furr Rd @ Northcross Dr	11,000	47,000	327%
Sam Furr Rd @ W.Catawba Ave	24,000	29,000	21%
I-77	79,000	102,000	29%

\*Above data obtained from NCDOT

\* **H**onor \* **P**rofessionalism \* **D**edication to **D**uty \*