

TRAFFIC CRASH ANALYSIS FIRST QUARTER 2021

In order to be pro-active with reducing the number of crashes that occur yearly, the Punta Gorda Police Department conducts a quarterly crash analysis. Therefore, the Accident Report by Intersection report, Accident Report by Zone report, Injury and Property Damage Analysis report, Accident Report by Parking Lot report and the Accident Report by Non-Intersection report generated in the OSSI accident module along with Monthly Activity Reports, CAD Directed Patrol Traffic report and CAD Traffic Stop report are utilized as resources for data presentation in the identification of problem areas (if any), and recommendations toward public education and/or enforcement action(s).

The data for the first quarter of 2021 (January 1st through March 31st) was reviewed and analyzed and indicated there were 194 total crashes within the City, with 86 occurring at intersections and another 64 occurring upon a roadway other than at an intersection. Parking lot crashes (44) are included in the total crash number, however, are not broken down by location, due to these crashes being attributed to design issues related to the parking lots themselves.

Of the 194 total crashes that occurred within the first quarter of 2021, 3 crashes involved a motorcyclist, 2 crashes involved a bicyclist, 2 crashes involved a pedestrian and 1 crash involved a moped. All 3 crashes involving a motorcyclist were single vehicle crashes where they lost control with minor injuries reported. One motorcyclist swerved to avoid a vehicle and drove into a ditch, another attempted to stop suddenly and lost control and the third just lost control and laid down the motorcycle. Of the 2 crashes involving a bicyclist, one was struck by a vehicle who failed to yield him the right of way and the other rode into a vehicle when failing to obey a traffic control device. Of the 2 crashes involving a pedestrian, one occurred in the parking lot of a car show where the driver was attempting to back into a parking spot and accidentally struck two pedestrians sitting in chairs and the other was a fatality where the pedestrian stepped out onto US 41 South in front of a vehicle. The crash involving a moped was caused by a vehicle failing to yield the right of way causing the operator to lay down the moped in order to prevent colliding into the vehicle.

There was an increase of 9 total crashes in the first quarter of 2021 from the first quarter of 2020 (this includes a decrease of 16 parking lot crashes).

Data Presentation

Top Intersections

Rank	Location	No. of Crashes
1.	West Marion Avenue at Cross Street West Marion Avenue at Maud Street	5
2.	Cross Street at West Retta Esplanade East Marion Avenue at Tamiami Trail Tamiami Trail at East Olympia Avenue Taylor Street at West Charlotte Avenue	4
3.	Tamiami Trail at Aqui Esta Drive Tamiami Trail at Taylor Road West Marion Avenue at Goldstein Street West McKenzie Street at Tamiami Trail	3

- There were a total of 6 intersections in which two crashes occurred and 36 intersections in which one crash occurred.
- Of the 5 crashes that occurred at the intersection of West Marion Avenue and Cross Street, 2 crashes were a result of vehicles traveling on West Marion Avenue side swiping a parked vehicle or the vehicle in the next lane, 1 crash was a result of a vehicle traveling west on West Marion Avenue making an illegal left turn from the right lane striking the vehicle in the left lane, 1 crash occurred on Cross Street where a vehicle stopped at the traffic light was rear ended and the other crash occurred on Cross Street when the vehicle failed to stop for the red light and struck the vehicle traveling on West Marion Avenue. All crashes yielded minor damages and either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries.
- Of the 5 crashes that occurred at the intersection of West Marion Avenue and Maud Street, 2 crashes were caused by vehicles on Maud Street not yielding the right of way to the vehicles on West Marion Avenue, 2 crashes are a result of vehicles traveling in the right lane on West Marion Avenue and making an illegal left turn causing them to strike the vehicle in the left lane and the other crash is a result of a vehicle slowing down to make a legal turn and being rear ended by the vehicle behind them. All crashes yielded either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries with two of the ten vehicles being towed from the scene.
- All 4 crashes that occurred at the intersection of Cross Street and West Retta Esplanade where due to the vehicle on West Retta Esplanade failing to yield the right of way to the

vehicles traveling on Cross Street. All crashes yielded either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries with three of the eight vehicles being towed from the scene.

- Of the 4 crashes that occurred on East Marion Avenue and Tamiami Trail, 1 crash was a rear end collision that occurred on East Marion Avenue, 1 crash was a rear end collision on Tamiami Trail, 1 collision was caused by a vehicle on Tamiami Trail making a left turn onto West Marion Avenue from the middle lane striking the vehicle in the left lane and the last crash was a single vehicle crash where a motorcyclist lost control causing him to lay his bike down. All crashes yielded either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries with three of the seven vehicles being towed from the scene.
- Of the 4 crashes that occurred on Tamiami Trail and East Olympia Avenue, 3 crashes were rear end collisions that occurred on Tamiami Trail and the fourth was caused by a vehicle on Tamiami Trail making a right turn onto East Olympia Avenue on a red light and failing to yield the right of way to the vehicle on East Olympia Avenue. All crashes yielded either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries with one of the eight vehicles being towed from the scene.
- Of the 4 crashes that occurred on Taylor Street and West Charlotte Avenue, 3 crashes were due to the vehicle on West Charlotte Avenue failing to yield the right of way to the vehicle on Taylor Street and the fourth crash occurred on Taylor Street when the vehicle made a left turn in front of oncoming traffic. All crashes yielded either no injuries or non-incapacitating injuries with three of the eight vehicles being towed from the scene.

Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes

Injuries	Zone/Amount
Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes	Zone 1 - 18 Zone 3 - 4 Zone 5 - 0 Total - 22

- Of the 22 total injuries, there was 1 fatality and 21 non-incapacitating injuries. The fatality was due to a pedestrian stepping out onto US 41 South in front of a vehicle. There was no increase/decrease of injuries in the first quarter of 2021 from the first quarter of 2020.

Identification of Problem Areas

Zone Breakdown (Including Parking Lots)	Number
Zone 1	144
Zone 3	35
Zone 5	15
Total Crashes	194

- Zone 1 represents 74.22 percent of the 194 city-wide crashes which is an increase of 7.2 percent from the first quarter of 2020.

Response to 2020 Fourth Quarter Analysis

Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky and Charlie Squad were tasked with assessing and addressing the information contained within the fourth quarter of 2020 Traffic Crash Analysis report. During the first quarter of 2021, Patrol focused enforcement on Tamiami Trail at Carmalita Street and continued east down to the intersection of Carmalita Street and Cooper Street. Officers also patrolled the area of Cross Street at West Marion Avenue. This enforcement extended to the intersection of Maud Street and West Marion Avenue. During the 1st quarter of 2021, Patrol conducted the following enforcement:

- A total of 336 Directed Traffic Patrols were conducted, 158 of which were in zone 1 and 75 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 711 traffic stops were initiated, 444 of which were in zone 1 and 383 of which were within the identified problematic area. It was noted that several traffic stops were conducted around the problematic areas which in turn increases enforcement by high visibility.
- A total of 224 Uniformed Traffic Citations were issued during the first quarter of 2021 with 131 of them being issued in zone 1.
- A total of 1039 Written Warnings were issued during the first quarter of 2021 with 408 of them being issued in zone 1.
- A total of 23 DUI arrests were made during the first quarter of 2021, 12 of them were in zone 1.
- A “Dummy” car was deployed intermittently at problematic intersections when available.
- The message board and radar trailer were also utilized throughout the city limits to assist with traffic complaints received during the first quarter of 2021. Combined they were placed at 13 separate locations throughout the quarter.
- The Community Engagement Unit was deployed as a traffic enforcement measure to combat complaints of speeders and other traffic violators throughout the City. It shall

be noted that the Community Engagement Unit was disbanded for a short period during the first quarter of 2021 due to training and manpower issues.

- The Punta Gorda Police Motor Unit, when available was assigned to the problem intersections to conduct extra traffic patrols.
- The Department participated in the FDOT “Think before you drink” DUI enforcement campaign.

During the fourth quarter of 2020, 73.15 percent of the crashes occurred in zone 1. During the first quarter of 2021, 42.67 percent of all written warnings and citations were issued in zone 1. It shall be noted that officers conducted speed enforcement on West Marion Avenue within zone 3, Burnt Store Road and Tripoli Boulevard due to citizen complaints.

This information was documented in a memorandum composed by Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky, which was filed in the source file.

Recommendations toward Public Education and/or Enforcement Action(s)

The information contained within the memorandum is meant to be used as a tool, not only for enforcement related activity but for educational purposes as well. As it is the objective to gain voluntary compliance of Florida State Statutes from the motoring public, members of the agency have a number of resources at their disposal to help the agency meet the aforementioned goal. Included in the resources available to members of the agency are: the uses of unmanned line vehicles, unmarked patrol units, two speed radar trailers, the message boards and directed traffic patrols.

The information contained within this analysis identifies that there was an increase in the number of crashes within the City (a total increase of 45 crashes) since the fourth quarter of 2020. Part of the increase in the number of crashes may be attributed to the seasonal residents returning to their Florida homes after the Christmas Holiday and the increased number of special events that occurred within the City of Punta Gorda since the pandemic shut down.

In response to this analysis, supervisors are requested and encouraged to continue their diligent traffic enforcement related activities. Lieutenant David Lipker and Echo Squad will lead the response to this quarter’s analysis and the subsequent completion of the SCARS report.

Please use this data for the appropriate education and enforcement by you and your squads in the target areas mentioned above. Feel free to use the full resources of the department.

Remember, the objective is for enforcement action taken to correlate with a reduction of overall crashes for the next quarter and at the above listed locations.

Finally, the raw data reports used for this analysis can be viewed via the 'P' drive under Operations/Uniform Patrol Section/Traffic/Traffic Analysis Report/2021/1st Quarter.

Resources:

Injury and Property Damage Analysis Report

Accident Report by Intersection Report

Accident Report by Zone Report

Accident Report by Parking Lot Report

Accident Report by Non-Intersection Report

Monthly Activity Reports

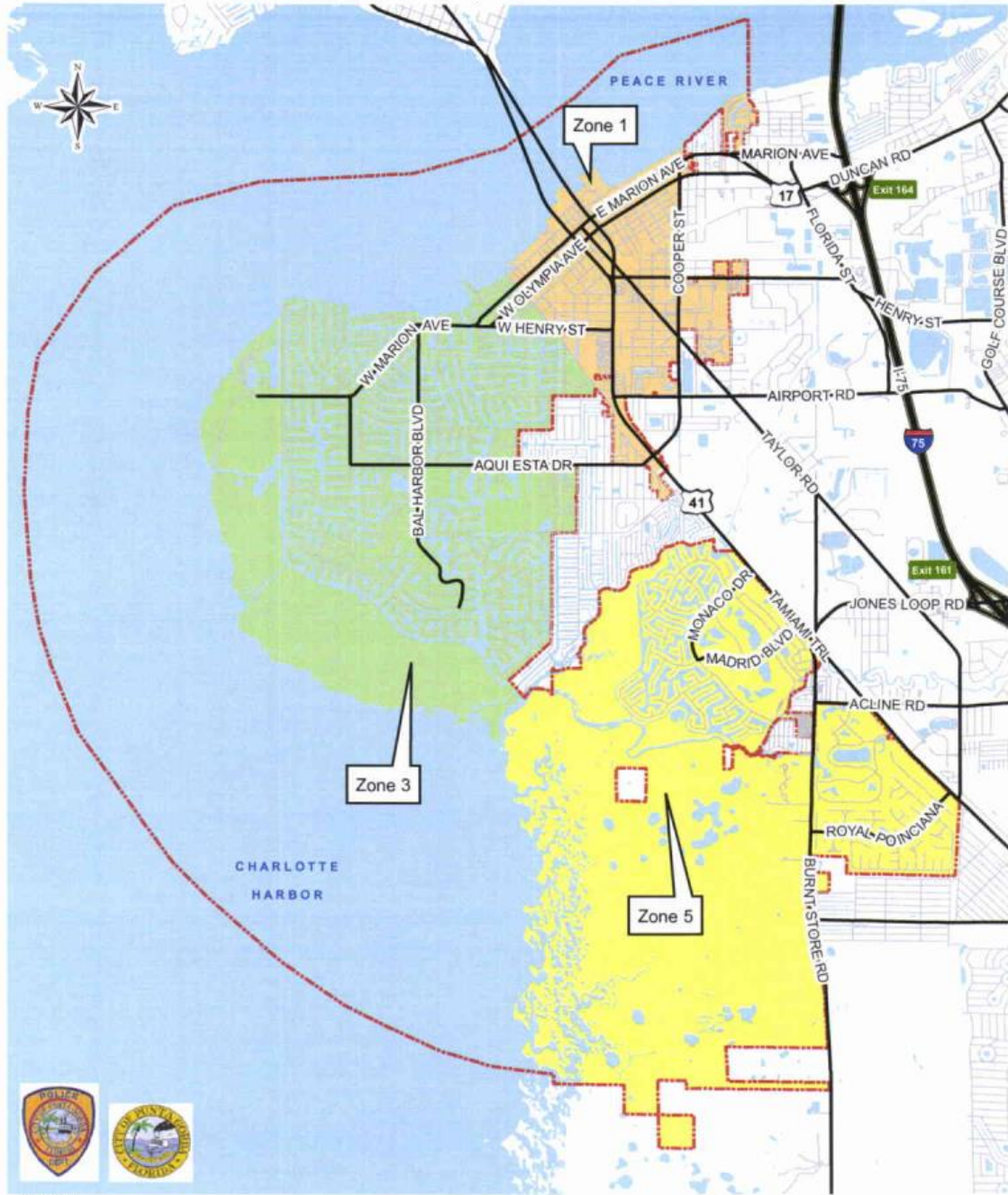
CAD Directed Patrol – Traffic Report

CAD Traffic Stop Report

/s/

nhn

Police Zones - City of Punta Gorda



- Legend**
- City Limits
 - Zone 1
 - Zone 3
 - Zone 5
 - I-75
 - Major Road
 - Street



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