

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Policy Manual

SUBJECT ROADBLOCKS	POLICY NUMBER 17.16
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	DATE REVISED 6/12/2014

17.16.1 Purpose

To provide policy and procedures to be utilized to conduct roadblocks by members of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

17.16.2 Policy

The Georgia Department of Public Safety shall conduct roadblocks to protect the citizens of the State of Georgia and to monitor and check driver's licenses, driver condition, vehicle registrations, vehicle equipment and other requirements of the Georgia motor vehicle and traffic code and to locate a suspected criminal likely to be in the area. Roadblocks shall be conducted in a manner that safely maximizes available personnel, promotes highway safety and provides the greatest public benefit. Roadblocks shall not be established for the general purpose of crime control or deterrence.

17.16.3 Procedures – Georgia State Patrol

A. Roadblocks

1. The decision to implement the roadblock shall be made by supervisory personnel in advance rather than by field personnel, including the time and location of the roadblock.
2. The supervisor must implement the roadblock for a legitimate primary purpose, which shall be to monitor and check driver's licenses, driver condition, vehicle registration, vehicle equipment and other requirements of the Georgia motor vehicle and traffic code or to locate a suspected criminal likely to be in the area. The primary purpose shall not be general crime detection.
3. Roadblocks must be conducted pursuant to a plan developed by supervisory personnel that establishes explicit and neutral criteria for all aspects of the roadblock.
4. All vehicles must be stopped as opposed to random vehicle stops. The roadblock may be temporarily suspended to avoid unreasonable or dangerous backup and then resumed after the backup is clear.
5. The delay to motorists must be minimal.
6. The roadblock must be clearly identified as a police checkpoint.

7. There must be a minimum of two uniformed officers at a roadblock. A Trooper/sworn member may hold a roadblock with a deputy sheriff or a city/county police officer. Traffic volume will determine the number of personnel needed for a roadblock.
8. The screening officer's training and experience must be sufficient to qualify the officer to make an initial determination as to which motorists should be given field sobriety evaluations.

B. Night Roadblocks

1. A supervisor shall approve roadblocks conducted at night. The Troop Commander or his designee shall be notified prior to starting the roadblock.
2. Selection of location shall take into account sight distance and lighting available or provided at the scene.
3. A minimum of four law enforcement officers must be present, two of which must be Troopers.
4. All Troopers participating in the roadblock shall wear reflective traffic vests.

C. Reports

1. After a roadblock, the DPS Roadblock Final Report (DPS-206A) shall be completed. The roadblock approving supervisor shall be responsible for obtaining the information and completing DPS-206A.
2. The DPS 206-A shall be attached to the Supervisory Initiation of Roadblock Approval Form (DPS-206) and maintained at the post in the territory where the roadblock occurred. If more than one post was involved in the roadblock, then a copy of DPS-206A shall also be maintained at the originating post.

17.16.4 Procedures – Motor Carrier Compliance Division

- A. MCCC shall follow the guidelines, requirements and procedures as set forth in the Department's Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). Such plan includes information and procedures for planning, implementation and data reporting of the roadblocks as they relate to commercial motor carriers, commercial motor vehicles, and commercial drivers.
- B. MCCC officers, such as those assigned to perform High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) duties, who engage in "ramp" roadblocks or other similar activities, which focus on non-commercial type traffic shall conduct such activities in accordance with guidance and direction provided by the Region Commander or his designee. Roadblocks must conform to section 17.16.3, A.
- C. When conducting night roadblocks:
 1. The region commander or his/her designee must provide prior approval for the activity.
 2. The selection for the roadblock location shall take into account sight distance and available lighting conditions.

3. A minimum of four law enforcement officers must be present, two of which must be DPS officers.
 4. All DPS members participating in the roadblock shall wear reflective traffic vests to enhance officer safety.
- D. All roadblock data shall be recorded and subsequently reported as directed by the region commander, his designee or hosting agency.