



MEDIA RELEASE

March 1, 2012

Traffic Safety Initiative – Passing on Shoulder

The Traffic Safety Division of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office has received numerous traffic safety complaints of motorist passing in an area not designed as a passing zone. Specifically, motorists have reported that during evening rush hour traffic, drivers are violating traffic law by utilizing the northbound shoulder portion of Maryland Route 5 just prior to Bay Ridge Road to pass vehicles waiting for the traffic light at Maryland Route 5 and Maryland Route 246 to change green.

Maryland Transportation Article Sec. 21, Paragraph 304 Subsection C prohibits "Driving a motor vehicle off roadway while passing vehicle." Motorist illegally passing on the shoulder of the roadway may receive a \$110.00 fine and 1 point on their driving record. If the illegal passing contributes to a motor vehicle collision the penalty increases to a \$150.00 fine and 3 points. A roadway is defined as "white line to white line." The shoulder is not a designated as a travel portion of the roadway

On February 27, 2012 the Traffic Safety Unit conducted a traffic initiative in the area of Maryland Route 5 and Bay Ridge Road in Great Mills, Maryland from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this operation was to educate drivers and enforce Maryland Traffic Law, specifically Article Sec. 21, Paragraph 304 Subsection C: "Driving motor vehicle off road while passing vehicle." Sheriff's deputies stopped 163 motorists who violated traffic law. A total of (56) fifty-six written warnings and (107) verbal warnings were issued.

As the weather begins warm, pedestrians, bicyclists and more motorists travel the roadways, the Traffic Safety Unit will continue to conduct traffic safety initiatives to address speed, impaired driving, texting and other aggressive traffic violations which threaten the safety of our roadways and communities.

We hope motorists will do their part in promoting traffic safety and preventing collisions by operate their motor vehicles responsibly and reporting aggressive driving. "Be the Solution: leave sooner, drive slower, and arrive safely". For further information on traffic safety please contact Sgt. Michael Butler, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Traffic Safety Unit at 301-475-4200 ext. 9006