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December 29, 2009



PRESS RELEASE

GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

County Adopts Colorado Department of Transportation's Model Traffic Code

Garfield County, Colorado; The Garfield County Board of Commissioners have approved the adoption of the Colorado Department of Transportation's Model Traffic Code, which will generate funds back to Garfield County's general fund instead of to the state.

As of January 1st, 2010, Garfield County has adopted the Model Traffic Code. The adoption of this Model Traffic Code gives the Garfield County Sheriff's Office the ability to enforce county traffic laws they have not previously been able to enforce such as parking violations in unincorporated Garfield County with fines being sent to Garfield County instead of the State.

The potential financial benefit to the county from the proposed change has not been calculated, Revenue from tickets issued on state highways still would be paid to the state, but Garfield County would get to keep any fines paid for its other public roads.

Under the Model Traffic Code all fines will include a \$10 victim assistance surcharge. Speeding violations also will be subject to a \$12 surcharge for the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.

CDOT's Model Traffic Code is meant to standardize traffic laws and penalties across municipalities and is tied directly to the Colorado Revised Statutes. Although the fines and language in the state statute are always subject to change, with the adoption of the Model Traffic Code the statutes are standard at the county level.

The average law abiding citizen will notice no changes. The violators that choose to speed violate no parking signs, etc, will continue to see county enforcement.