Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 4

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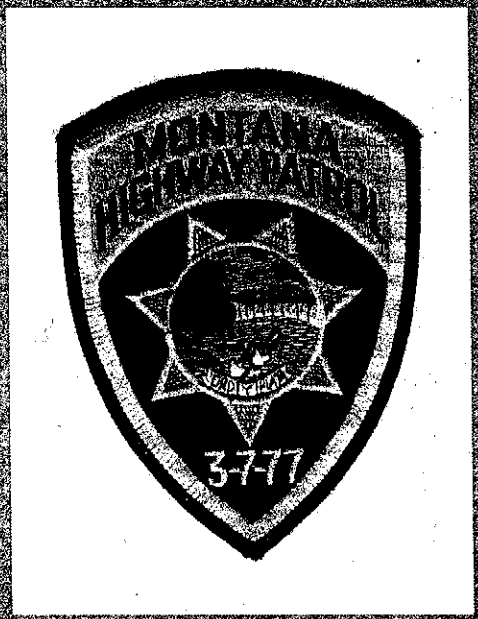
Montana Department of Justice
Montana Highway Patrol

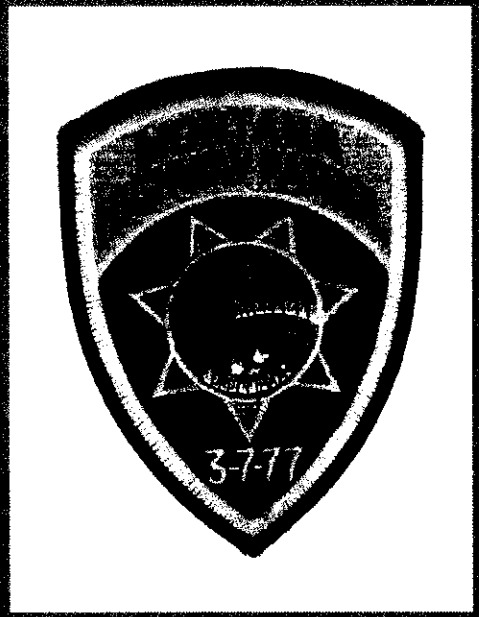


Budget Presentation
FY 2006 & FY 2007

02 February 2005

EXHIBIT 4
DATE Feb 2, 2005
HB 2: Dept. of Justice

Montana Department of Justice
Montana Highway Patrol



Budget Presentation
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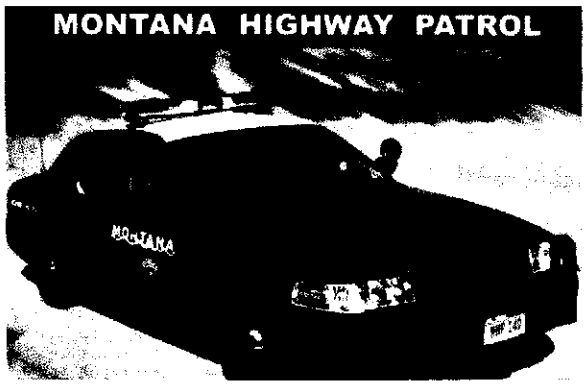
Montana Highway Patrol

Mission Components

- **People**
  - fewer officers than in 1973
  - increasing population
  - increase in miles driven by traveling public
  - increase in number of registered vehicles
  - increase in calls for service

- **MHP Vehicles**
  - log over 5.5 million miles year
  - replace 63 vehicles per year
  - provide safe and reliable equipment to MHP officers
  - gasoline and maintenance key

- **Communication Technology**
  - radio communications
  - dispatch centers
  - video cameras
  - computer-aided dispatch and records management system
  - total stations for investigating crashes



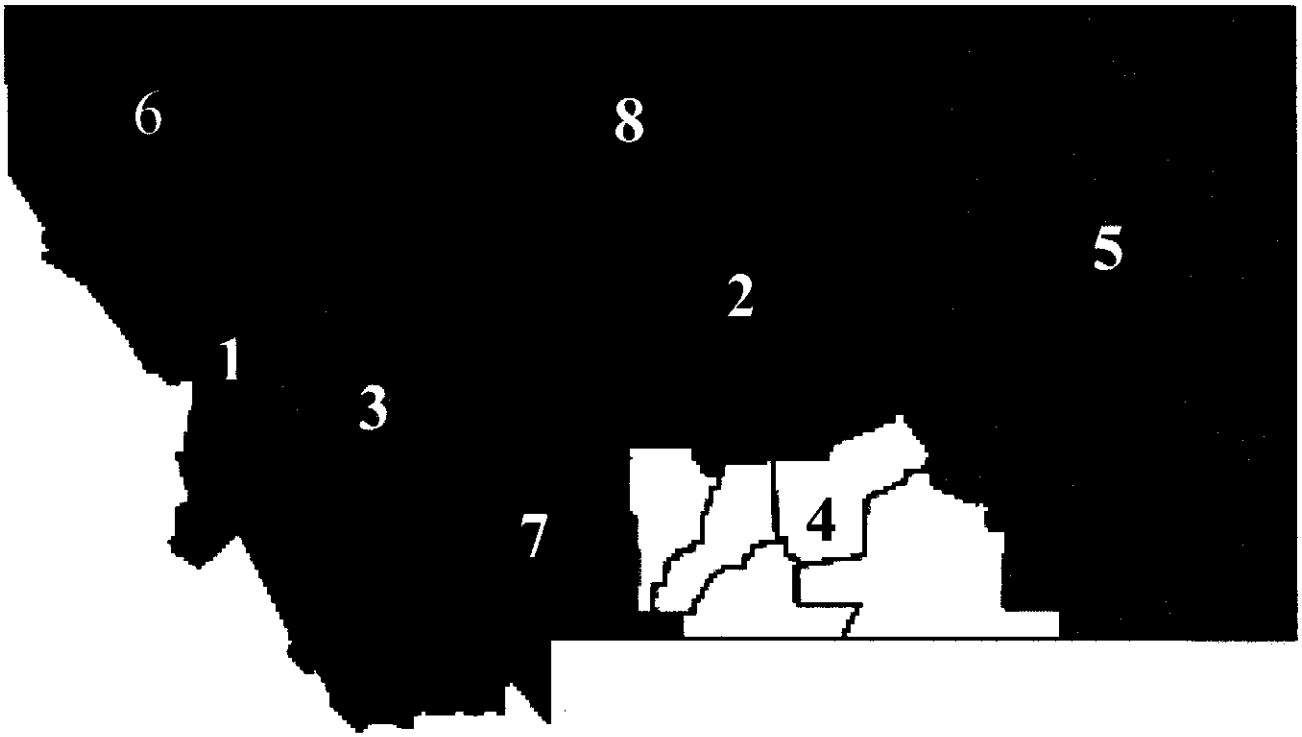
Montana Highway Patrol

Brief History

- 1935: 24 Officers
- 1972: Reorganized under the Attorney General
- 1973: 220 Officers
- 2005: 206 Officers

Montana Highway Patrol

District Map



District 1 Missoula

District 2 Great Falls

District 3 Butte

District 4 Billings

District 5 Glendive

District 6 Kalispell

District 7 Belgrade

District 8 Havre

Montana Highway Patrol

Engineering, Education, and Enforcement

The Montana Highway Patrol can make a powerful impact regarding the overall safety of the motoring public by being proactive in the areas of "Engineering, Education, and Enforcement:"

Engineering – The officers of the Highway Patrol, either through accident investigation, enforcement activities or actual experiences, identify areas where engineering changes are needed to improve traffic safety. These recommendations are brought forward for review, ultimately by the DOT and receive serious consideration. Recommendations have resulted in changes from simple things such as improved signs, to complete rebuilding of roadbeds and structures.

Education – The officers of the Highway Patrol have long provided educational classes, talks, public service announcements, and forums to improve traffic safety. These education efforts offer the motoring public an opportunity to better understand their responsibility to safely use the highways of Montana. Topics range from DUI detection to the explanation of the traffic code. The officers recognize the value of impacting young drivers early with the critical message of the highway safety and spend a great deal of time in the schools.

Enforcement – The most visible aspect of the Patrol is the enforcement effort of the officers. While no one likes to be stopped by an officer for a violation of the traffic code, it is the primary means to ensure the laws are enforced and the overall integrity of the safety effort is maintained. Active enforcement better guarantees compliance with traffic law. This reduces crashes and severity of crashes when they occur. Often, enforcement action will occur as a result of a crash. This educates those involved regarding their action and their role in safe operation on the highway traffic system.

Mission: Highway Traffic Safety

- **Montana Constitution:** "...citizens inalienable right...seeking their safety, health and happiness."
- **U.S. Department of Transportation:** "...ensure a fast, safe, efficient...transportation system."
- **Montana Department of Transportation:** "...providing a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness..."
- **Montana Highway Patrol:** ***"Safeguard the lives and property of the people using the highway traffic system of Montana through education, service and enforcement."***

Montana Highway Patrol

Funded by State Gas Tax

Here are some of the reasons the Patrol is funded from the gas tax account.

1. When the transportation system is considered as a whole, public safety is a key component. As the system is funded by the special revenue account, it is only logical that public safety aspect be funded from the same source.

2. The demand for and funding of the public safety aspect of the system is provided by the users of the system.

3. As the demand for services increase, due to the miles driven and fuel used, the ability to fund the public safety aspect of the system matches the increased demand.

4. Failure to consider public safety on the system in the same light as construction of or maintenance of the infrastructure is short sighted and unrealistic. The importance of the public safety aspect is demonstrated every time a federal mandate for a specific traffic safety law emerges. If a state chooses to ignore the public safety aspect, federal funding is denied or put on hold until the state in question rethinks its position.

5. The source is stable and consistently grows as miles driven in the state increase. If fossil fuels remain in use, the relationship between miles driven and available funding will continue. As the use of the system, through the number of miles driven increases, the use of fuel increases correspondingly.

MHP utilizes 11.2% of the Highway Special Revenue Account

MCA 44-1-501 Requires all expenses of the Highway Patrol to be paid out of the MDT account in the state special revenue fund.

Montana Highway Patrol

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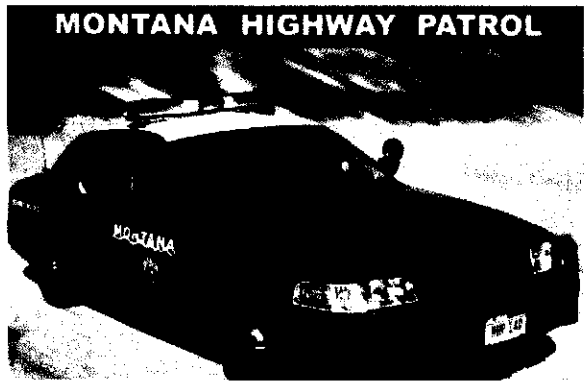
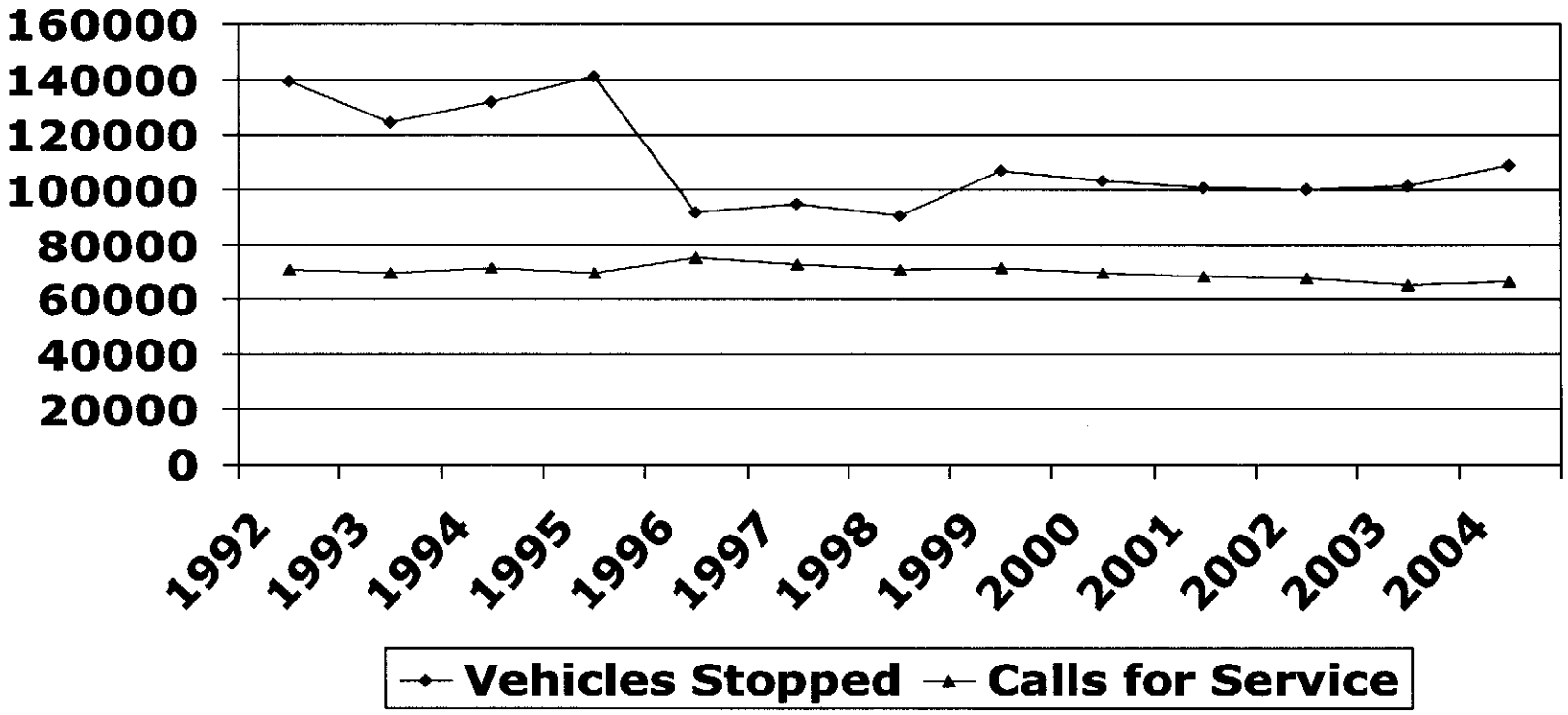


Montana Highway Patrol

Vehicles Stopped and Calls for Service