

Bend Parkway to be first target of new multi-agency traffic team

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A new multi-agency traffic team (MAT) comprised of four law enforcement agencies within Deschutes County will begin April 11 with enhanced and saturated enforcement of traffic laws on the Bend Parkway, authorities reported.

The MAT team operations will be conducted on a monthly rotating schedule between the involved agencies including Bend and Redmond Police Departments, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and Oregon State Police (OSP), Sgt. Ron Taylor with Bend Police said. "The purpose of this MAT Team is to utilize police officers from multiple agencies to educate the public and enforce traffic laws by conducting saturation patrols in predetermined locations."

The targeted locations and type of enforcement activity will be determined by the agency that has jurisdiction where the operation is being conducted, Taylor said. Operations will typically be held in areas where high traffic volume has led to increased numbers of violations and crashes.

The first MAT Team operation is scheduled for April 11 on the Bend Parkway, when officers will be watching for speeders, red light violations, drivers following too closely, and failing to maintain a safe distance from emergency vehicles.

"The goal of the program is to gain traffic law compliance through enhanced police presence, and to reduce the number of violations thereby reducing the number of motor vehicle crashes," Taylor said. "Motor vehicle crashes throughout Deschutes County have led to numerous persons being injured or killed and thousands of dollars in property damage each year," he added.

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