



West Virginia
Parkways Authority



Public Service
Commission



West Virginia
State Police

Contact: Susan Small, 304-340-0820, ssmall@psc.state.wv.us

For Immediate Release

Date: November 13, 2018

WV Parkways Authority, PSC and State Police Increase Truck Patrols on Turnpike

CHARLESTON, WV – In a coordinated effort to increase safety for the West Virginia traveling public, the West Virginia Parkways Authority, the Public Service Commission and the West Virginia State Police today announced they will dedicate an additional full time PSC patrol unit to perform safety inspections and issue citations to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMV) for speeding and defective equipment on the West Virginia Turnpike. The Parkways Authority will be responsible for the salary and cost of the vehicle used by the new patrol unit. The officer will be certified and trained by the Transportation Division of the Public Service Commission. The State Police oversee law enforcement along the Turnpike. The additional officer is expected to be in place within the next few weeks, in advance of the increased holiday traffic.

In recent years, there has been a marked increase in accidents involving large trucks. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, crashes involving large trucks have increased from 327,000 in 2013 to 475,000 in 2016. West Virginia numbers similarly show a dramatic increase. In 2013, there were 58 accidents involving CMVs resulting in 34 injuries and one fatality. In 2017, there were 120 accidents involving CMVs resulting in 71 injuries and nine fatalities.

“The Parkways Authority appreciates the support of the PSC with the addition of a third PSC officer to patrol the West Virginia Turnpike,” said Greg Barr, General Manager of the West Virginia Parkways Authority. “Approximately 20% of toll transactions on the Turnpike are from tractor trailers and this new patrol unit will enhance enforcement and improve the safety for travelers. These officers will not only enforce speed limits but they will also perform safety inspections to make certain the commercial vehicles are in compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation safety regulations.”

“The Public Service Commission takes our responsibility of highway safety very seriously,” said Bob Blankenship, Director of the Commission’s Transportation Division. “Our primary goal is to reduce the number of accidents, injuries and deaths involving commercial motor vehicles. This new patrol is a great step toward achieving that goal.”

###