THP Transitioning to Chevrolet Tahoe

Texas Highway Patrol has dedicated officers serving in some of the most challenging and diverse environments in the nation. Our THP men and women are working long hours and logging millions of miles on their vehicles each year.

Agency leadership has teamed with the Fleet Operations management to identify the best possible vehicles to ensure the safety and operational capabilities of our officers. The Chevrolet Tahoe is the vehicle of choice for THP in the current market. Over 350 2015 Tahoe units will be deployed this year.

The Tahoe is the largest vehicle that is a Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) available today. The space and cargo capacity offered by the Tahoe is one of the significant factors in the decision to use this vehicle. It is also the only PPV available with a full body-on-frame construction. This gives the Tahoe unmatched ride quality and durability in this market.

The 2015 Tahoe was a redesign of the vehicle which improved the ride quality, reduced wind and road noise, and offered the first 4WD PPV Tahoe as an option. The THP Tahoe will also be equipped with Bluetooth, dual batteries with isolator, and a rear camera system when deployed.

Fleet Operations continues to work with the THP leadership to identify the best available equipment and options for the vehicles as technology advances.

Service Department Scheduling

The repair shop in Austin now schedules your appointments for most maintenance and repairs. This change has already significantly improved the service capacity and reduced wait times over the simple first-come, first-served method.

DPS troopers, agents, and staff are encouraged to make an appointment for service in order to be given priority over walk-in requests.

Emergency repairs or special circumstances will still be considered on a case by case basis.

Staff should call the shop at 512-424-2041 to schedule maintenance or repairs.
Everyone loves a new vehicle. When you receive notice that your new rolling office is ready, there are a few things that can make the transition a little faster for you when you get to fleet.

First, call ahead. The new vehicle announcement sent to the Captain or supervisor will direct the driver to call and schedule pick up with the appropriate department.

Remember, only the assigned driver can pick up a new vehicle.

Bring all of the required paperwork with you. This includes (at a minimum) the new vehicle announcement, carbooks for current and previous month, Vehicle Turn-in Form (SH 5), and the Ticket for Asset Transfer for all applicable equipment.

Supervisors need to confirm the on-line transfer process has been initiated and is awaiting acceptance by fleet.

Upon arrival at Fleet operations, driver should check in with the radio shop first if they have a radio and tablet to program or swap, and head to the parts department to pick up their new vehicle keys.

Fleet Operations management recently had the opportunity to attend the annual Michigan State Police vehicle tests. MSP annually evaluates the vehicles that are certified Police Pursuit Vehicles (PPV) as an independent third party.

Testing was held at Chrysler’s Chelsea Proving Grounds and Grattan Raceway, an SCCA sanctioned road course in the rolling hills of Central Michigan.

Vehicles tested included various configurations of:
- Chevrolet Impala
- Chevrolet Caprice
- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Dodge Charger
- Ford police Interceptor Sedan
- Ford interceptor Utility

Motorcycles tested included models from BMW and Harley Davidson as well as a three wheeled Can Am cycle and an electric cycle from Zero motorcycles, Inc.

**Do You Know?**

Which of the vehicles below is the best selling vehicle of all time?
Two Step, One Sticker Update

Last year Texas implemented the “Two Step, One Sticker” program to eliminate the need for multiple stickers for inspection and registration.

The challenge to DPS is that thousands of vehicles that have previously been exempt from annual registration are now required to be processed for a registration sticker on an annual basis.

Fleet Operations has been working closely with Travis county officials to resolve the issues with this additional workload both within DPS and at the county offices. An additional specialist has been hired for this purpose and is pending background to be completed so we can clear our backlog of registrations.

DPS staff who are waiting on vehicle registrations are asked to be patient. The stickers will be forwarded as soon as they are received.

All staff are reminded that you can help us by making sure the vehicle inspection is completed within the 90 days prior to the renewal date and has been forwarded to fleetvtr@dps.texas.gov for processing.

How Do We Compare?

A recent survey by Government Fleet magazine indicates Texas DPS fleet is one of the largest public fleets in the nation.

Other facts from the survey include average annual mileage for police vehicles nationwide being approximately 15,000 miles. Texas DPS is averaging over 20,000 miles on our vehicles annually.

Operations Strong Safety has added approximately 500 miles per month to the vehicles in THP services.

Texas DPS vehicles average age of 3.7 years is substantially less than the national average for law enforcement vehicles. Keeping the age down helps reduce maintenance costs and time. Police vehicles average approximately 20 hours of maintenance per year.

Upfitting

Many people are not familiar with the term upfitting. This is the addition of specialized equipment to vehicles for a specific purpose or industry. Law enforcement vehicles are highly specialized and require significant upfitting.

Texas DPS Fleet Operations has a highly skilled group of technicians that install, wire, test, and finish a variety of electronics and lights on many types of vehicles. From THP pursuit vehicles to covert units, our staff utilizes their skills and the latest technology to provide Texas DPS with the best possible equipment every day.
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of over 4,500 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 93 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations
Brian Reynolds

Fleet Operations Manager
Karl Schofield

Fleet Maintenance Manager
Charles Schoenfeld

Answer to “Did You Know”: A – The Volkswagen Beetle has seen over 21.5 million made since 1938. The Little Tykes Car has sold approximately 10 million units. The Ford Taurus has sold approximately 8 million units.

Dodge Chargers – Front End Repairs

DPS has a large number of Dodge Chargers in service as THP vehicles, particularly since 2011. The Chargers have proven to be a cost effective option for law enforcement agencies and are popular across the country.

All vehicles present challenges over time and the Dodge Charger is no exception. One issue that has come to light with the Charger is in the front end. The struts originally used by Dodge have proven to be less than ideal for law enforcement purposes. They have a large failure rate after warranty expires under the typical use we are incurring.

Dodge has recognized this issue and has developed a heavier duty strut for our application which we can have installed at a dealer at no charge with approval of our Dodge service representative.

Note: The heavy duty strut is currently on a national backorder. Fleet Operations is using a product from another manufacturer when necessary while we wait for the dodge part to become available.

Field staff are encouraged to utilize a dealer for this repair if it becomes necessary. The dealer may initially indicate that the repair will not be covered under warranty. Staff should contact Fleet Operations service department at 512 424-2041 and we will obtain the required approval to avoid the expense of this repair.

Any staff that have had struts replaced on a Dodge Charger and were charged for this repair should also contact the Fleet Operations service department.
Texas DPS Fleet Operations Newsletter

Fleet Operations News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Picking Up Your Vehicle 2
Age and Mileage 2
Do You Know? 2
Wrecker Runs 3
How Do We Compare? 3
THP B&W Vehicles 3
Service Dept Scheduling 4

Texas DPS Fleet Operations Overview

Fleet Operations within Texas DPS is responsible for nearly 5,000 vehicles used by the agency in the ongoing mission to provide Courtesy, Service, and Protection.

Within the department several groups work to provide various services and ensure the most appropriate vehicles are provided, equipped, and maintained for all DPS staff.

Fleet Operations administrative and management team oversees the day to day operation and works with each department within the agency to develop specifications for the vehicles needed. Vehicle replacements are ordered and assigned, license and registrations are processed, and vehicle disposal process is managed.

Parts and inventory staff manage a warehouse and distribution center as well as oversee the issue and disposal of all capital asset items associated with the fleet, including vehicles, radios, and video systems.

Auto repair shops across the state employ technicians that repair and maintain the variety of DPS vehicles required to support the agency law enforcement operations.

The Austin based installation department is responsible for the final upfit and prep for all agency vehicles. This includes the radio and camera installation, wiring of all lights and siren, and various electronic components for troopers and agents in each department.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Texas DPS fleet operates approximately 3,100 vehicles that are capable of operating on E85. These vehicles qualify as alternative fuel vehicles based on federal guidelines for public fleets.

Due to limited availability of E85 across most of Texas, DPS vehicles are operated primarily on gasoline.

DPS also owns and operates five gasoline hybrid vehicles.

Alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrid and electric vehicles, will continue to be evaluated by our management staff for applications within Texas DPS where possible.
Picking Up Your New Vehicle

Everyone loves a new vehicle. When you receive notice that your new rolling office is ready, there are a few things that can make the transition a little faster for you when you get to fleet.

First, call ahead. The new vehicle announcement sent to the Captain or supervisor will direct the driver to call and schedule pick up with the appropriate department.

Remember, only the assigned driver can pick up a new vehicle.

Bring all of the required paperwork with you. This includes (at a minimum) the new vehicle announcement, carbooks for current and previous month, Vehicle Turn-in Form (SH 5), and the Ticket for Asset Transfer for all applicable equipment.

Supervisors need to confirm the on-line transfer process has been initiated and is awaiting acceptance by fleet.

Upon arrival at Fleet operations, driver should check in with the radio shop first if they have a radio and tablet to program or swap, and head to the parts department to pick up their new vehicle keys.

Average Age and Mileage of DPS Vehicles

According to a 2015 study conducted by Government Fleet magazine, the national average mileage put on police vehicles is approximately 14,200 for sedans and 15,200 for SUV’s.

In FY15, Texas Highway Patrol mileage on our B&W units was double the national average with our sedans averaging just over 30,000 miles and our SUV fleet averaging just over 29,600 miles per unit.

Other DPS vehicles, when broken into segments to match the survey information, also accumulated significantly higher mileage than the national averages. Texas DPS sedans, SUV’s, and light duty truck categories all averaged over 20,000 miles last year.

The average age of the various vehicle types within the DPS fleet shows more about the purchasing habits than the actual vehicle life. The move to SUV’s over the recent years skews the data making the sedans appear older on average. B&W sedans currently average 3.25 years while SUV’s average age in the fleet is 2.5 years. Non pursuit average vehicle ages are typically slightly over 4.5 years.

National average age for police vehicles in the GF survey was approximately five years.

Do You Know?

What are the three vehicles below? (You may show your age…)

A.  
B.  
C.  

Answer on page 4.
Texas DPS operates two rollback wreckers from the Austin repair shop and another at the Florence EVOC facility. Fleet Operations will pick up wrecked or inoperable vehicles anywhere in the state if needed. Fleet Operations averages over 20 wrecker requests each month. Some are for vehicles to be repaired or others will be retired and replaced.

Wrecker Runs

Over the last year, this is some of the breakdown we have recovered.

- 15 units required engine replacements due to water damage; 12 of these were repaired and returned to service.
- 61 engine problems not related to water/flooding; 18 of these were repaired and returned to service.
- 45 transmission issues; 18 were repaired and returned to service.

81 vehicles were involved in accidents and needed to be picked up. Only 8 of these were repaired and returned to service.

One THP unit was brought in after being struck by lightning! This vehicle is currently being evaluated by our technicians with the hope that it can be repaired and returned to service.

How Do We Compare?

A November 2015 survey by Government Fleet magazine indicates Texas DPS fleet is one of the largest public fleets in the nation. With continued growth expected in 2016, Texas DPS is likely going to surpass 5,000 vehicles in service.

Nearly half of the vehicles in Texas DPS service are Black and White THP vehicles. THP is over three times larger than the next largest segment of the fleet.

There are over twenty manufacturers and forty models represented in the Texas DPS fleet of vehicles.

The estimated replacement value of the Texas DPS fleet is $150,000,000

Texas DPS vehicles drove over 93,000,000 miles last year, or the equivalent of driving around the earth more than 3,700 times.

THP B&W Vehicles

Fleet operations staff are often asked how many of each type of vehicle do we have. What is the most common patrol car in our fleet? How many Crown Vic’s are still running? So here you go, as of 1/12/16, THP fleet now has more Tahoes than any other model in service with 897 B&W Tahoe units on the road. We have 805 Dodge Chargers, 718 Ford Crown Vic’s remaining, 29 Ford PI Utility (Explorer), one (1) Chevrolet Silverado, and one (1) Dodge Challenger.

Now you know.
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of over 4,500 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 93 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations: Brian Reynolds
Fleet Operations Manager: Karl Schofield
Fleet Maintenance Manager: Charles Schoenfeld


Service Department Scheduling

The repair shop in Austin now schedules your appointments for most maintenance and repairs. This change has already significantly improved the service capacity and reduced wait times over the simple first-come, first-served method. Emergency repairs or special circumstances will still be taken and completed as quickly as possible on a case by case basis.

Staff should call the shop at 512-424-2041 to schedule maintenance or repairs.
Fleet Operations within Texas DPS is responsible for nearly 5,000 vehicles used by the agency in the ongoing mission to provide Courtesy, Service, and Protection.

Other than the primary shop in Austin, Region 3 in Weslaco is the largest volume repair facility within DPS. Working to support the border operations and provide maintenance and repair to traveling troopers and agents has taxed the resources available at this location.

In Q4 2015 two vacant positions were allocated to add to the capacity of the Weslaco location. This facility will now employ four full time automotive technicians and a supervisor.

Starting February 29, 2016 the Region 3 Fleet Repair Shop in Weslaco, will add a second shift for improved service to DPS personnel. In addition to the traditional hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, we will also have an evening shift from 4:00 pm to 12:00 am.

This change is taking place to better serve DPS Fleet Operations repair needs and offer staff additional maintenance opportunities.

Please continue to contact Robert Garza at 956-565-7660 or by cell phone 956-375-8903 to schedule your repairs or maintenance.

Inspection and Registration Process

Texas DPS fleet continues to work through the inspection and registration process for our fleet of nearly 5,000 vehicles. Recently, the second phase of the “Two Step – One Sticker” process took effect.

Inspections now must be completed **no more** than 90 days prior to expiration per regulation. Additionally, due to processing time needed by Travis County and DPS Fleet Operations, we need the inspection submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the expiration of the registration.

Additional information is available at [http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator](http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator)
Everyone loves a new vehicle. When you receive notice that your new rolling office is ready, there are a few things that can make the transition a little faster for you when you get to fleet.

First, call ahead. The new vehicle announcement sent to the Captain or supervisor will direct the driver to call and schedule pick up with the appropriate department.

Remember, only the assigned driver can pick up a new vehicle.

Bring all of the required paperwork with you. This includes (at a minimum) the new vehicle announcement, carbooks for current and previous month, Vehicle Turn-in Form (SH 5), and the Ticket for Asset Transfer for all applicable equipment.

Supervisors need to confirm the on-line transfer process has been initiated and is awaiting acceptance by fleet.

Upon arrival at Fleet operations, driver should check in with the radio shop first if they have a radio and tablet to program or swap, and head to the parts department to pick up their new vehicle keys.

Dodge Charger vs. Ford PI Utility vs. Chevy Tahoe

The Dodge Charger is the common sedan in THP’s fleet today. With a 5.7L V8 the Charger is popular for its acceleration as well as excellent handling.

The largest number of Chargers in the fleet are 2012 – 2014 models. Issues with the Chargers are typically some front suspension problems and camshafts that fail +/- 100k miles.

A limited number of Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles have been used by THP and seem to be a great combination of space and power with AWD now standard. The V6 powered Fords are available with Ecoboost, Fords turbocharger option. The Ford Utilities currently used in the THP Fleet are 2013 – 2015 models with more planned for 2016.

Currently the most popular and widely used vehicle in the THP fleet is the Chevy Tahoe. The full size SUV is the most spacious PPV available on the market and provides excellent visibility, durability, and comfort for long days on the road.

Powered by a 5.3L V8 and the heaviest vehicle in THP service, Tahoe is also more costly to operate.
Fleet Operations has collaborated with the leadership of various departments to identify standard equipment sets for vehicles. Each vehicle will be fitted with a set of standard equipment that is based on the assignment of the vehicle.

Changes to a standard vehicle build sheet will require written approval from a Major or higher. A cost estimate of any changes will be provided by Fleet Operations for consideration before final approval.

Any equipment changes that are anticipated should be conveyed to Fleet Operations at the time the vehicle assignments are made so the build process is not delayed. Removing and retrofitting equipment is a time consuming process and may result in the vehicle being moved to a later date for issue.

In some cases Fleet Operation will utilize equipment on hand that may be reclaimed from vehicles removed from service or recycled from vehicles that are wrecked to realize financial savings.

Modifications to DPS vehicles by staff outside of Fleet Operations are not authorized and will be reported to agency leadership.

---

### How Do We Compare?

Texas DPS Fleet Operations employs technicians and supervisors certified and knowledgeable with many types of equipment. Our current staff is capable of diagnosis and repair of almost any make and model of vehicle available on the market. We have multiple ASE Master Technicians, Chevrolet and Ford certified technicians, VW and Audi certified technicians, and multiple staff with experience in military equipment that even includes helicopters.

Our equipment to technician ratio is approximately 208:1 within Texas DPS. This is an exceptionally high ratio, meaning that our shops must remain very efficient to maintain the quantity of vehicles that we operate. Our technicians high skill level and varied expertise helps us troubleshoot and repair issues with accuracy and get our staff back on the road as quickly as possible.

### THP B&W Vehicles

Texas DPS Fleet Operations staff are responsible for the installation of many different pieces of equipment in a variety of vehicles. In the THP vehicles used by our troopers, we oversee the installation and/or connectivity to equipment including:

- Cargo box (storage)
- CradlePoint
- USB Hub
- Camera system
- Light bar and emergency lighting
- K9 kennels and equipment
- Console
- Radio head
- Weapon mount
- Docking station
- Antenna(s)

FY15 total Mileage driven by Texas DPS vehicles increased to slightly more than 115,000,000 miles.
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of approximately 5,000 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 115 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Transmission Service Change

Due to increased mileage on Texas DPS vehicles and changes in maintenance schedules on current models, Fleet Operations will be implementing regular transmission service per manufacturers guidelines on all department vehicles. In the past, this has been deemed unnecessary due to our turnover of vehicles prior to needing this service. Mileage intervals for transmission service vary but include 30,000 mile (Ford Utility), 45,000 mile (Chevrolet), and 65,000 mile (Dodge Charger) intervals on most of the vehicles currently in use. The relatively minor cost of maintenance will help minimize transmission failures on DPS vehicles.
Texas DPS leadership has approved a change for many of the agency administrative and non-commissioned vehicles.

While being cautious to ensure we are remaining compliant with all Texas regulations for state owned vehicle branding, the agency is moving to a less conspicuous identification.

The new branding, as shown above, will be black on light colored vehicles and silver will be used on dark vehicles.

Questions regarding which vehicles are being changed or if your department is affected should be directed to your chain of command.

Fleet Operations staff has already started the change to the new markings and will continue with any vehicles in Region 6 first, followed by outlying areas. Staff that may be traveling to Austin can also contact the fleet office to schedule the decal change while here.

Contact Karl Schofield at x2049 or Mary Poole at x2043 for assistance.

Texas DPS fleet continues to work through the inspection and registration process for our fleet of nearly 5,000 vehicles. Recently, the second phase of the “Two Step – One Sticker” process took effect. Inspections now must be completed no more than 90 days prior to expiration per regulation. Additionally, due to processing time needed by Travis County and DPS Fleet Operations, we need the inspection submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the expiration of the registration.

Additional information is available at http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator
Texas DPS repair shops are now scheduling service for maintenance and routine service items. By calling the shop and scheduling your appointment in advance we are able to service vehicles faster and reduce down time for all departments.

First, call ahead. The best way to shorten your wait time and get in and out quickly is to call ahead when you know the vehicle will be due for maintenance or at the first sign of a problem. Waiting to notify the shop will only cause delays in the process. Most common repairs can be scheduled with less than a one week wait if scheduled in advance.

Additional ways to shorten the wait time include making sure the work order is completed with current contact name and number, index code, and that all are legible.

Emergency repairs, questions regarding potential safety concerns, or other issues will continue to be handled on a first come – first served basis.

Scheduling service at the DPS shops prior to arriving will reduce your wait time and allows the technician adequate time to properly inspect, maintain, and repair the vehicle.

Ford PI Utility

A number of Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles have been used by THP in recent years and have been well received, with most drivers saying they are a reliable and comfortable vehicle.

Later this year Texas DPS will begin receiving over 220 additional Ford PI Utility vehicles to be used as new and replacement vehicles in the THP fleet.

The V6 powered Fords are being ordered with Ecoboost, which is Ford’s turbocharged engine option. This powertrain provides 365 HP for pursuit capability. All Ford PI Utility models are also equipped with AWD as a standard feature.

The Ford pursuit vehicles are also highly rated for safety, including being the only pursuit rated sedan and SUV rear-crash tested at 75 mph.

Ford PI Utility SUV’s are less expensive to purchase than the larger Chevrolet Tahoe and they offer significant savings in cost to operate as well.

Fleet Operations shops have geared up with additional diagnostic tools and will update training for staff in preparation for the new vehicles.
Updated Tahoe Equipment

Fleet Operations will be updating some of the equipment in the Texas Highway Patrol vehicles as we issue new Tahoes this year.

An all new aluminum cargo box will be utilized in the Tahoe, with increased storage and a drawer that integrates all the electronics for the radio, Whelen controls, and siren. The new box will also hold four Haenni scales for the CVE troopers.

An updated light bar from Whelen and improved lighting at the front and rear of the vehicle will enhance safety and usability during traffic stops.

The center console for the Tahoe has been totally redesigned for easier access to radio controls, printer, and cupholders while offering a secure platform for mounting the tablet and keyboard. An adjustable base on the weapon mount will also improve access and ease of removal while maintaining security of the DPS issued firearms.

These changes were driven by feedback from the field and are implemented to ensure our staff have the very best available equipment when on the road every day. Ongoing feedback is always welcome as we continue to improve.

How Do We Compare? (Parts Department)

Texas DPS Fleet Operations operates a full service parts department with over $300,000 stock of the most common repair and maintenance parts. This dedicated staff also tracks the inventory for all outlying DPS automotive repair facilities and radio shops.

This year the Fleet Operations parts department anticipates bringing in and tracking the inventory valued at over $8,400,000 related to the upfit of new and replacement vehicles as well as more than $1,500,000 in maintenance and repair parts.

Staff from this dedicated group is also responsible for the issue of new vehicles, inventory of turn-in equipment, and capital inventory of all vehicle related items across the state on an annual basis.

THP B&W Vehicles

Texas DPS Fleet Operations staff are responsible for the installation of many different pieces of equipment in a variety of vehicles. In the THP vehicles used by our troopers, we oversee the installation and/or connectivity to equipment including:

- Cargo box (storage)
- CradlePoint
- USB Hub
- Camera system
- Light bar and emergency lighting
- K9 kennels and equipment
- Console
- Radio head
- Weapon mount
- Docking station
- Antenna(s)

Total cost of a new issue B&W Tahoe with radio, tablet, and all related equipment to be placed in service is over $75,000.00
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of approximately 5,000 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 115 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations  
Brian Reynolds

Fleet Operations Manager  
Karl Schofield

Fleet Maintenance Manager  
Charles Schoenfeld

*******************************************************************************

❖  Congratulations!  ❖

Fleet Operations is excited to announce the promotion of Chris Chromcak to Parts and Supply Supervisor.

Chris is a five year veteran of DPS and has taken the place of Toribio Solis, who moved to a new position within the agency.

Please welcome Chris to his position when you stop by the department.

Standard Equipment

Each department within Texas DPS has standard equipment sets for all vehicles that are issued. Changes to a standard vehicle build sheet will require written approval from a Major / AD or higher. A cost estimate of any changes will be provided to department leadership by Fleet Operations for consideration before final approval.

Any equipment changes that are anticipated should be conveyed to Fleet Operations at the time the vehicle assignments are made so the build process is not delayed. Removing and retrofitting equipment is a time consuming process and may result in the vehicle being moved to a later date for issue.
Texas DPS leadership has approved a change for many of the agency administrative and non-commissioned vehicles.

While being cautious to ensure we are remaining compliant with all Texas regulations for state owned vehicle branding, the agency is moving to a less conspicuous identification.

The new branding, as shown above, will be black on light colored vehicles and silver will be used on dark vehicles.

Questions regarding which vehicles are being changed or if your department is affected should be directed to your chain of command.

Fleet Operations staff has already started the change to the new markings and will continue with any vehicles in Region 6 first, followed by outlying areas. Staff that may be traveling to Austin can also contact the fleet office to schedule the decal change while here.

Contact Karl Schofield at x2049 or Mary Poole at x2043 for assistance.

Inspection and Registration Process

Texas DPS fleet continues to work through the inspection and registration process for our fleet of nearly 5,000 vehicles. Recently, the second phase of the “Two Step – One Sticker” process took effect.

Inspections now must be completed **no more** than 90 days prior to expiration per regulation. Additionally, due to processing time needed by Travis County and DPS Fleet Operations, we need the inspection submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the expiration of the registration.

Additional information is available at http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator
Texas DPS repair shops are now scheduling service for maintenance and routine service items. By calling the shop and scheduling your appointment in advance we are able to service vehicles faster and reduce down time for all departments. First, call ahead. The best way to shorten your wait time and get in and out quickly is to call ahead when you know the vehicle will be due for maintenance or at the first sign of a problem. Waiting to notify the shop will only cause delays in the process. Most common repairs can be scheduled with less than a one week wait if scheduled in advance. Additional ways to shorten the wait time include making sure the work order is completed with current contact name and number, index code, and that all are legible. Emergency repairs, questions regarding potential safety concerns, or other issues will continue to be handled on a first come – first served basis.

A number of Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles have been used by THP in recent years and have been well received, with most drivers saying they are a reliable and comfortable vehicle. Later this year Texas DPS will begin receiving over 220 additional Ford PI Utility vehicles to be used as new and replacement vehicles in the THP fleet. The V6 powered Fords are being ordered with Ecoboost, which is Fords turbocharged engine option. This powertrain provides 365 HP for pursuit capability. All Ford PI Utility models are also equipped with AWD as a standard feature. The Ford pursuit vehicles are also highly rated for safety, including being the only pursuit rated sedan and SUV rear-crash tested at 75 mph. Ford PI Utility SUV’s are less expensive to purchase than the larger Chevrolet Tahoe and they offer significant savings in cost to operate as well. Fleet Operations shops have geared up with additional diagnostic tools and will update training for staff in preparation for the new vehicles.
Updated Tahoe Equipment

Fleet Operations will be updating some of the equipment in the Texas Highway Patrol vehicles as we issue new Tahoes this year.

An all new aluminum cargo box will be utilized in the Tahoe, with increased storage and a drawer that integrates all the electronics for the radio, Whelen controls, and siren. The new box will also hold four Haenni scales for the CVE troopers.

An updated light bar from Whelen and improved lighting at the front and rear of the vehicle will enhance safety and usability during traffic stops.

The center console for the Tahoe has been totally redesigned for easier access to radio controls, printer, and cupholders while offering a secure platform for mounting the tablet and keyboard. An adjustable base on the weapon mount will also improve access and ease of removal while maintaining security of the DPS issued firearms.

These changes were driven by feedback from the field and are implemented to ensure our staff have the very best available equipment when on the road every day. Ongoing feedback is always welcome as we continue to improve.

How Do We Compare? (Parts Department)

Texas DPS Fleet Operations operates a full service parts department with over $300,000 stock of the most common repair and maintenance parts. This dedicated staff also tracks the inventory for all outlying DPS automotive repair facilities and radio shops.

This year the Fleet Operations parts department anticipates bringing in and tracking the inventory valued at over $8,400,000 related to the upfit of new and replacement vehicles as well as more than $1,500,000 in maintenance and repair parts.

Staff from this dedicated group is also responsible for the issue of new vehicles, inventory of turn-in equipment, and capital inventory of all vehicle related items across the state on an annual basis.

Vehicle Branding Retrofit

Texas DPS leadership has approved a change for many of the agency administrative and non-commissioned vehicles. The new branding, as shown above, will be black on light colored vehicles and silver will be used on dark vehicles.

Questions regarding which vehicles are being changed or if your department is affected should be directed to your chain of command. Fleet Operations staff has already started the change to the new markings and will continue with any vehicles in Region 6 first, followed by outlying areas. Staff that may be traveling to Austin can also contact the fleet office to schedule the decal change while here.
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of approximately 5,000 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 115 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations  
Brian Reynolds  
Fleet Operations Manager  
Karl Schofield  
Fleet Maintenance Manager  
Charles Schoenfeld

*********************************************************

Texas DPS Fleet Operations Newsletter

THP B&W Vehicles

| Cargo box (storage) | CradlePoint | USB Hub | Camera system | Light bar and emergency lighting | K9 kennels and equipment | Console | Docking station | Antenna(s) |

Texas DPS Fleet Operations staff are responsible for the installation of many different pieces of equipment in a variety of vehicles. In the THP vehicles used by our troopers, we oversee the installation and/or connectivity to equipment including:

- Cargo box (storage)
- CradlePoint
- Camera system
- Light bar and emergency lighting
- K9 kennels and equipment
- Console
- Docking station
- Antenna(s)

Standard Equipment

Each department within Texas DPS has standard equipment sets for all vehicles that are issued. Changes to a standard vehicle build sheet will require written approval from a Major / AD or higher. A cost estimate of any changes will be provided to department leadership by Fleet Operations for consideration before final approval.

Any equipment changes that are anticipated should be conveyed to Fleet Operations at the time the vehicle assignments are made so the build process is not delayed. Removing and retrofitting equipment is a time consuming process and may result in the vehicle being moved to a later date for issue.
Fleet Operations continues to work with senior leadership in efforts to obtain additional funding to replace aging and high mileage vehicles in our fleet. In the interim period it will be critical to ensure maintenance is regularly performed on all DPS fleet vehicles.

Increases in annual mileage due to agency initiatives, vehicle price increases, as well as growth of the fleet have contributed to our current high mileage situation. Vehicles with over 150,000 miles will be an unfortunate necessity as we await additional replacement funding.

Agency staff can minimize downtime and additional costs associated with a higher mileage fleet by adhering to the manufacturers suggested maintenance schedule for their vehicle. Proper maintenance can prolong the life of the vehicles as well as minimize potential vehicle failures. Additional preventive maintenance may be recommended for vehicles over 100,000 miles, which drivers can find in the owner’s manual or by visiting one of the DPS Fleet Operations shop locations.

Fleet staff will work to ensure that every agency vehicle, regardless of mileage or age, is safe and ready for duty at all times.

Texas DPS fleet manages the annual inspection process for our fleet of nearly 5,000 vehicles. DPS vehicles are not exempt from inspection laws in Texas and require registration stickers as proof of inspection.

Inspections now must be completed no more than 90 days prior to expiration per regulation. Additionally, due to processing time needed by Travis County and DPS Fleet Operations, we need the inspection submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the expiration of the registration.

Additional information is available at http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator.
Scheduling Service

Texas DPS repair shops are now scheduling service for maintenance and routine service items. By calling the shop and scheduling your appointment in advance we are able to service vehicles faster and reduce down time for all departments.

First, call ahead. The best way to shorten your wait time and get in and out quickly is to call ahead when you know the vehicle will be due for maintenance or at the first sign of a problem. Waiting to notify the shop will only cause delays in the process. Most common repairs can be scheduled with less than a one week wait if scheduled in advance.

Additional ways to shorten the wait time include making sure the work order is completed with current contact name and phone number, index code, and that all are legible.

Emergency repairs, questions regarding potential safety concerns, or other issues will continue to be handled on a first come – first served basis.

New Arrivals

A number of Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles have been arriving at DPS HQ in Austin. Many staff on campus may have questions regarding the status and availability of these vehicles.

These units are part of the FY16 vehicle orders. A few delays in the state procurement process caused some equipment orders for these vehicles to be pushed back to FY17. Final equipment orders were placed in September and the components are now being shipped to DPS to complete the upfit of these vehicles for THP use.

Because these vehicles are being completely upfitted here at Fleet Operations they are visible to staff as well as the public throughout the process, prompting questions. Other vehicles ordered at the same time or earlier, are equipped by vendors at other locations and are not as readily visible while going through the process of being equipped for agency use.

Fleet staff are diligently working to prepare the new vehicles to be issued as quickly as possible.
Updated Fuel Process at HQ

Fleet Operations has recently updated the process for fuel receipts at the HQ auto shop.

When fueling DPS vehicles at the HQ shop there is now a laptop inside the shop entrance where paper fuel receipts used to be located. Agency drivers are now able to log in using their agency ID and password. Drivers then type in the amount of fuel purchased, the vehicle unit number, and their name.

When complete, the receipt is printed at the kiosk and can also be emailed to the drivers agency email address for later use.

These simple changes allow for timely tracking of the fuel use by department, reduce fuel requisition and order processing time for fleet staff, and provide a receipt for department records.

Staff members in the auto shop or fleet offices are available to show users how to log into the new system if assistance is required.

Fun Fast Facts

Texas DPS Fleet Operations employs nine ASE Certified Master Technicians!

In FY16 Fleet Operations issued 3,506 requisitions through eProcurement.

Fleet Operations averages more than 20 requests each month for our wrecker services across Texas due to accidents or vehicle failure.

DPS technicians complete over 700 vehicle repair work orders each month.

Vehicle Branding Retrofit

Texas DPS leadership has approved a change for many of the agency administrative and non-commissioned vehicles. The new branding will be black letters on light colored vehicles and silver on dark vehicles and simply identifies the agency vehicles as “TEXAS DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”.

Fleet Operations staff has been implementing the change to the new markings and will continue updating at HQ and in outlying shops. Staff that may be traveling to any of the shop locations can contact the fleet office to schedule the decal change while here.

Total cost of a new issue B&W Tahoe with radio, tablet, and all related equipment to be placed in service is over $75,000.00
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of approximately 5,000 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 115 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations  
Brian Reynolds

Fleet Operations Manager  
Karl Schofield

Fleet Maintenance Manager  
Charles Schoenfeld

*********************************************************

Texas DPS Fleet Operations offers waiting areas with snacks, vending machines, Wi-Fi, and cable television at the Austin HQ location.

Shop Hours of Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours of Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HQ Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ Auto Body Shop</td>
<td>6 AM to 3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence EVOC Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>8 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbock Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>8 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weslaco Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 12 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Administrative Office</td>
<td>7 AM to 4 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each department within Texas DPS has standard equipment sets for all vehicles that are issued. Changes to a standard vehicle build sheet will require written approval from a Major / AD or higher. A cost estimate of any changes will be provided to department leadership by Fleet Operations for consideration before final approval. Any equipment changes that are anticipated must be conveyed to Fleet Operations at the time the vehicle assignments are made so the build process is not delayed.

Additional equipment installations or equipment changes will not be made at the time the vehicle is picked up.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Fleet Operations continuously works with the manufacturers regarding known issues with vehicles that we utilize in our fleet. In cases where a known problem needs to be addressed, Fleet Operations management appeals for warranty assistance or customer service consideration.

One of the most significant issues currently is the Dodge Charger pursuit vehicles. Texas DPS has approximately 800 of these vehicles in service at this time. The 5.7L motor has been identified with a flaw that is causing a high failure rate in our vehicles. It appears to be related to our agency use of them, and has not been identified as a flaw that is significant in retail (civilian) units.

If you are driving a Dodge Charger with the 5.7L motor and it is diagnosed with a significant problem with the engine, please contact Fleet Operations to obtain approval from our representative with Dodge before paying for or authorizing any repairs.

DPS auto shop can be reached directly at 512-424-2041 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm daily.

Inspection and Registration

Texas DPS fleet manages the annual inspection process for our fleet of nearly 5,000 vehicles. DPS vehicles are not exempt from inspection laws in Texas and require registration stickers as proof of inspection.

Inspections now must be completed no more than 90 days prior to expiration per regulation. Additionally, due to processing time needed by Travis County and DPS Fleet Operations, we need the inspection submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the expiration of the registration.

Additional information is available at http://twostepsonesticker.com/calculator
Your vehicle may be a source for security concerns that could be overlooked.

Texas DPS vehicles are equipped with an increasing amount of electronic equipment and options, both aftermarket and from the factory. Have you ever considered the security of data on or in your vehicles electronics?

Consider factory options such as Bluetooth capability. Do you load your contact list into the system when you use a DPS vehicle? More importantly, do you delete it when you are done?

What about the map or GPS system that is available in the vehicle or can be linked via your phone? What are the risks associated with leaving a trail of where you travel for others to see?

It is also important to thoroughly check vehicles prior to transfer or turn-in to remove all personal items. When agency vehicles are reassigned to other employees or sold, there is potential risk of personal information left in the vehicle, such as bank statements, credit card bills, prescriptions, or documents that list the driver’s home address, etc.

---

**THP Ford PI (Police Interceptor) Utility Vehicles**

Fleet Operations has begun to issue the first round of Ford PI Utility vehicles purchased in FY16.

Based on the popular Ford Explorer platform, the THP vehicles are equipped with the potent EcoBoost system, which means the AWD sport utility uses turbocharged motors and produces a whopping 365 HP.

The Ford PI Utility has been the most popular pursuit vehicle in recent years due to the practical combination of space and performance capability.

The THP vehicles are equipped with an updated interior storage system in the cargo area as well as an improved secure weapon mount behind the front seats. Fleet staff also refurbished Whelen light bars for the Fords this year that saved the agency approximately $400,000 over buying all new lights.

Additional savings were realized by refurbishing other components and through ongoing reviews of equipment options and updated technology.

THP will deploy 220 Ford PI Utility vehicles this year.
Austin Radio Shop contact information: Austin Radio Shops has a new main phone number 512-486-6454 which will put you directly in touch with a radio technician. You can also contact us via email at Radio_Shop@dps.texas.gov.

Radio Shop Re-bandung update: Statewide radio reprogramming for the re-bandung mandate is nearing completion. As of January 5, 2017 Radio Shop personnel have reprogrammed 5,236 radios across the state. Region 2 will be complete on January 20, 2017. Region 6 re-bandung will begin on January 23rd in Victoria and finish in Florence on March 3rd.

Radio Shop Work Orders are Available Online!

Save time by going to http://CommShop360.tle.dps to fill out a work order for service. Click on "Add New Service Request"

Enter the information with the red asterisks: Agency Name = Texas DPS
Location Name = Your Sargent area (VAT Property code)
Vehicle# = If applicable
Batch = The radio shop you want to perform the service
Name = Your Name
Phone = Your contact phone (Prefer a cellular contact number)
Email = Your DPS email
Service Required = a brief description of service needed
Index/budget = The number to charge any parts if needed

Who Knew?
A fully equipped THP Tahoe B&W patrol unit weighs over 6,000 pounds.

Tahoe Auxiliary Battery

The DPS Chevrolet Tahoe is equipped with two batteries. The auxiliary battery cannot be used to jump start this vehicle or other vehicles.

In the picture the primary battery is circled in red. This is the battery that must be used for jump starting.

The auxiliary battery is the one circled in yellow, and is marked with a yellow tag on the fender stating "DO NOT JUMP START THIS BATTERY".

Failure to follow this guideline will damage your vehicle.
Texas Department of Public Safety Fleet Operations consist of dedicated automotive technicians, installation specialists, inventory and parts procurement staff, and administrative professionals operating in a primary headquarters located in Austin, Texas and outlying facilities in Lubbock, Weslaco, Houston, and Florence.

Our fleet consists of approximately 5,000 law enforcement and support vehicles operating over 115 million miles annually in support of the DPS mission.

Director of Fleet Operations          Brian Reynolds
Fleet Operations Manager              Karl Schofield
Fleet Maintenance Manager             Charles Schoenfeld

*********************************************************

Texas DPS Fleet Operations offers waiting areas with snacks, vending machines, Wi-Fi, and cable television at the Austin HQ location.

Shop Hours of Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours of Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HQ Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ Auto Body Shop</td>
<td>6 AM to 3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence EVOC Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>8 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbock Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>8 AM to 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weslaco Auto Repair Shop</td>
<td>7 AM to 12 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Administrative Office</td>
<td>7 AM to 4 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Temps and Tires

Contrary to popular belief, tires don't hold up your car. The air pressure in tires is what actually does the work. Proper tire inflation is critical to good traction, longer tire life, and a better ride quality.

One reason to check air pressure regularly is the changing temperatures outside. As air heats, it expands. When air cools, it contracts inside the tire. The rule of thumb is that the pressure in most light duty tires will change 2% for each 10 degrees of temperature change.

Pressure should always be checked when the tire is cold, before driving a significant distance, and should be filled to the recommended pressure on the door placard inside the driver's door frame.

Questions regarding tire pressure or tires in general can be directed to the fleet shop nearest you.