

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety Implements Police Bicycle Program, *Capitol Police Officers on Pedal Patrol in Capitol Complex*

MONTGOMERY — Two Capitol police officers began their Capitol complex patrol duties on bicycle this week as part of the Department of Public Safety's new police bicycle program. In announcing the program, DPS Director Col. Mike Coppage termed the initiative "smart urban policing."

Coppage said the police bicycle program is an asset for the Capitol police officers, who are responsible for patrol, enforcement and emergency response services throughout the Capitol complex in downtown Montgomery.

"The police bicycle is highly mobile and cost-effective," said Coppage. "It allows officers access to areas otherwise inaccessible to conventional police vehicles, and it's a great community-policing tool."

In addition to deterring criminal activity, bicycle patrols afford officers greater contact with the public, said Coppage. "A patrol car insulates an officer, but a police bicycle allows an officer to use all his senses when on patrol."

The two bicycle-mounted officers, Lee Brothers and Addre Bryant Jr., completed a week-long Law Enforcement Bike Association course at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to achieve certification. Two additional Capitol police officers are scheduled to attend training.

Coppage said the mountain bikes selected for patrol usage are equipped with blue lights and siren. He estimated equipment and training costs for the police bicycle program at \$12,000.

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