Auto Theft Awareness and Reduction Strategy
The Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 2003 to reduce auto theft and insurance fraud in Colorado. By creating auto theft task forces and granting funds for equipment, training, and education throughout Colorado, CATPA has made significant progress towards the reduction of auto theft. In 2005, Colorado had 25,315 vehicle thefts, but five years later in 2010 have reduced thefts to 11,114.

This strategic plan has been developed to provide a clear vision for CATPA to reach its goals beginning in 2012. The plan incorporates quantifiable measures while supporting interdisciplinary expertise. Successful results will continue by linking knowledge, analysis, technology, and partnering cross boundary agencies in a collaborative effort to reduce auto theft.

This particular plan received numerous contributions from professionals at the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Department of Revenue, the Insurance Industry of Colorado, Colorado Auto Theft Investigators Association, statewide law enforcement agencies, district attorney offices and representatives from public and consumer groups. This entire partnership is committed to making CATPA one of the leaders in the nation in auto theft prevention, and I thank them for their guidance and leadership.

This document represents those who put their knowledge and expertise into creating this strategic plan, and I urge you to take the time to read this roadmap which will move CATPA to the next level in automobile theft prevention.

Respectfully,

J. Wolfinbarger
Colonel James M. Wolfinbarger
Chief, Colorado State Patrol
Executive Summary

The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority was established by Senate Bill 08-060 in 2003. The CATPA Board made up of representatives from the Colorado Departments of Public Safety and Revenue, the Colorado Insurance Industry, Law Enforcement, the District Attorneys Association and representatives of public or consumer groups was established in 2004. The Board went right to work reviewing grant requests and awarding funds donated from the insurance companies to organizations for use in the determent of auto theft. The reduction of auto theft through grant funds was a success! The Colorado Auto Theft Investigators and the Board moved forward to support a statute amendment in 2008 to authorize a fee of $1 per auto insurance policy to establish auto theft prevention authority grant funding. The program has awarded approximately $4 million dollars annually which has been used by the programs partners to reduce auto theft in Colorado by 56 percent. This 56 percent decrease in auto theft has translated into a savings of $77 million dollars to the citizens of Colorado.

To combat auto theft, the Board proactively solicits, scores and awards grant funding twice a year. Grants are distributed geographically to multi-jurisdictional programs for law enforcement task forces and teams, crime prevention, specialized training, prosecution, and offender rehabilitation. Grants have been awarded since 2003 and provided funding for the much needed resources to combat auto theft statewide.

The program has established a strong foundation in which to build the CATPA Strategic Plan. This plan has been developed to provide all the partners with a blueprint and common goals to take this program to the next level as a national leader in auto theft prevention.

The CATPA Board plans to accomplish this vision by incorporating four strategic goals: Partnerships, Education, Intelligence Led-Policing and Process Refinement.

The development and support of multi-jurisdictional Partnerships throughout Colorado is important to provide a uniformed approach to auto theft prevention in Colorado. Crime is not limited by jurisdictional boundaries; Task Force and Team partnerships provide opportunity to share intelligence, tactics, operations, equipment, resources and prevention messages for a statewide approach in prevention, enforcement and prosecution.

Education, marketing and community outreach are key factors in preventing auto theft. CATPA supports the prevention brand, “Lockdown” and the “Lockdownyourcar.org” as the statewide prevention website. “Lockdown” provides a foundation for stakeholder initiatives in local communities as well as statewide. CATPA will continue work to update and promote programs such as “Lockdown” and “Watch Your Car”.

Intelligence Led – Policing and technology uses data analysis to develop target strategies to enhance the enforcement, prosecution and prevention of auto theft. CATPA will provide the catalyst to link the many stakeholders of the Colorado Against Auto Theft (CAAT) Coalition, the Auto Theft Task Forces and Teams and the Colorado Auto Theft Investigators with the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center to collect, analyze and share data. Bringing these groups together to share information and develop common strategies will strengthen the CATPA Boards knowledge and ability to provide grants to partners and organizations that will result in the highest return in the prevention of Auto Theft.

Process Refinement is an ongoing task to review, and implement improvements to the CATPA program to accomplish its mission to deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The program will strive to improve the grant process by implementing automated grant applications and create a basic training program for grantees to better utilize the system. Also, measures will be taken to improve cost savings through a statewide bid process for repetitive purchase of equipment and services. Improving process is never ending and CATPA will continue to refine internal process and enhance statute to better meet the needs of the stakeholders.

The CATPA Board, staff and their partners have done an outstanding job in establishing a professional agency involved in the determent of vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The implementation of this Strategic Plan will provide the focus for the Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority to excel in meeting their assigned mission and achieving their vision to be recognized as a national leader in the determent of auto theft and insurance fraud.

GOALS

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**Mission, Vision and Operating Philosophy**

The Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority

**Mission:**
“To deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud through a statewide cooperative effort of generating funds to support law enforcement, prosecution and public awareness through a partnership between industry and state government.”

**Vision:**
“Through partnerships, education, intelligence-led policing and technology, CATPA will become a national leader in the determent and reduction of auto theft and insurance fraud.”

**Operating Philosophy:**
The CATPA Staff and the Board are committed to reducing auto theft by coordinating and developing goals with our stakeholders and partners. Communication, coordination and interdisciplinary expertise are the foundation of CATPA.

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**Introduction**

On July 1st, 2003, Senate Bill 08-0601 sponsored by Senator Betty Boyd, established law for the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA). In 2003 through 2007, grants were awarded and funded by donation dollars from the partnering insurance companies. After a 19% decrease in auto theft, legislation was modified on July 1st, 2008 to require new mandatory grant funding through 2018. Annually, for every insured vehicle in Colorado, one dollar is collected from insurance companies. This funding in turn is awarded for grants for auto theft prevention, enforcement, prosecution, or offender rehabilitation.

This new funding provides grant funds to recipients that include law enforcement agencies, state agencies, local unit of governments, independent school districts, nonprofits, or for profit organizations that can demonstrate its proposed program addresses an important aspect of motor vehicle theft prevention.

The legislation gives priority to multi-jurisdictional applicants that target auto theft in different geographical regions of the state. Annually, approximately $4 million is awarded. Since 2003 through 2009, auto theft has been reduced by 56 percent through CATPA grant funding.

The CATPA helps ensure that auto theft prevention efforts are targeted and long-term commitments by funding Task Forces focused specifically on auto theft, prosecution of the auto thieves and prevention campaigns to “lockdown” your car. CATPA is similar to auto theft prevention authorities in many other states and internationally that have successfully reduced auto theft.

**Statement of facts.**
Since CATPA efforts have been launched, the number of stolen vehicles in Colorado has decreased by nearly 9,062 vehicles.

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1. Senate Bill 08-0600 provides for the continuation of the automobile theft prevention authority, and in connection therewith, continuing the automobile theft prevention board, and making an appropriation.
2. Colorado Revised Statute 10-4-617 establishes the insurer’s biannual fee for the automobile theft prevention authority.
Statement of facts.

Using the FBI's valuation of $6,505 per stolen vehicle, the decrease in auto theft is a $77 million dollar savings to Colorado citizens, since the peak of auto theft in 2005.

Due to the direct investment by consumers to combat auto theft, the intent is to ultimately lower car insurance premiums. All Colorado drivers are victims of auto theft. In addition to paying the insurance deductible, there are other costs such as insurance premium increases, the time to meet with police, vehicle rental fees, and time off from work and overall worry.

To work toward the goal of combating auto theft, oversight of the CATPA was provided in legislation establishing the authority for the CATPA Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of 11 members that include representatives from the Department of Revenue, Colorado State Patrol, two (2) law enforcement agencies, five (5) insurance representatives, one (1) consumer representative and one (1) representative from the Statewide Association of District Attorney’s. Board meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month. The Board is committed to reducing auto theft by competitively selecting and awarding the most beneficial grants and insuring appropriate expense of the grant funds.

“The East Metro Auto Theft Team (EMATT) attributes success in auto theft reduction to strong partnerships, effective leadership and innovative public education. By conducting targeted enforcement and building relationships with other task forces, prosecutors, businesses and the community, EMATT has had a significant impact on auto theft criminals and the serious crimes linked with auto theft.”

Lieutenant Paul O'Keefe, East Metro Auto Theft Team, Aurora Police Department

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CATPA Board of Directors

Front Row: Janet Cammack - State Farm Insurance, Eva Wilson – First Judicial District Attorney’s Office, Chief Kevin Paletta – Lakewood Police Department, Tonia Rumer – Colorado Farm Bureau, and Lieutenant Colonel Scott Hernandez – Colorado State Patrol


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4 Colorado Revised Statutes 42-5-112 Establishes the automobile theft prevention authority board, creation, duties, rules, fund and repeal.
The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority supports the goals and strategies identified in the Colorado State Patrol 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. The CSP plan provides the strategic foundation that formulates the goals for the CATPA program. The CATPA Strategic Plan outlines the measures to continue to reduce auto theft within Colorado.

The framework for the CATPA strategic plan includes:

- CSP Goals
- CATPA Goals
- CATPA Strategies
- CATPA Action Items
- CATPA Performance Measures
- CATPA Grant Selection Priorities

The goals and strategies support the CATPA statute, the action items and performance measures provide direction and criteria to meet the goals and the grant selection priorities provide “focus” to award grant funding in Colorado. This plan will be reviewed annually to update the program of work with the partners and stakeholders of CATPA. It is undoubtedly the work of the partners and stakeholders that define the success of reducing auto theft in Colorado. The first goal of CATPA Strategy recognizes this collaboration.

CATPA Goals:

**Build and Nurture Local, State, Federal and International Partnerships**

- Support geographical distribution of resources and partnerships that are multi-jurisdictional.
- Support prosecutorial and judicial partnerships.
- Develop CATPA partnerships that enhance grantee goals and objectives.

**Support Vehicle Theft Prevention through Public Awareness and Community Education**

- Support local and statewide marketing and community outreach focused on auto theft prevention.
- Evaluate, update and release the “watch your car” or similar program.

**Incorporate Intelligence Led-Policing, Strategies, and Technology to Analyze Data and Develop Target Strategies to Enhance Auto Theft Enforcement and Prevention**

- Develop data driven analysis to identify trends and enforcement measures.
- Through statewide data and analysis, release information within prevention messages to tie with analysis of data.
- Provide a statewide approved list of vendors to reduce redundancy of effort in procurement and costs and enhance uniform standards in equipment to interface data collection and analysis.

**Review, Refine, Implement, and Manage Program Processes**

- Implement the grant process through the automated Grants Management System.
- Oversee and manage financial accountability and develop solutions through process or legislatively to enhance CATPA goals and objectives.

CATPA Performance:

CATPA partners and stakeholders are absolutely critical to the execution of the CATPA strategy. This unified front has been the strength of CATPA’s current success and will continue to meet future achievements to attain these goals. Success of accomplishments will be evaluated through stakeholder input, quarterly progress review of performance measures and results of the reduction in auto theft in Colorado.
CATPA Strategy: Support geographical distribution of resources and partnerships that are multi-jurisdictional.

CATPA Action Items:
- Implement and foster clear communications measures between Task Forces and Teams.
- Develop a universal statewide law enforcement shared authority through partnerships to allow cross-jurisdictional interaction within Task Forces and Teams.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Host quarterly Project Director meetings.
- Participate in meetings with Task Forces and Teams, Non-Profits, Bureaus, agencies, for profit organization, and businesses that will enhance future benefits to reductions in auto theft.
- Develop an awards program recognizing the significant accomplishments of the auto theft partners and incorporate into the annual CATI conference.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Promote Task Forces and Teams to cross jurisdictional boundaries to share resources and equipment.
- Support cross jurisdictional Task Force and Teams operations and maintenance.
- Open communications to coordinate and deconflict operations.
CATPA Strategy: Support prosecutorial and judicial partnerships.

CATPA Action Items:
- Provide statewide assistance to prosecute cases.
- Host meetings with Task Forces and Teams, District Attorneys and Judicial staff to establish a communication channel.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Present CATPA at District Attorney and Judicial annual statewide conferences.
- Develop a rapport by attending local meetings biannually with District Attorneys and Judges to identify measures and steps in consistency to reduce auto theft.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Promote Task Forces and Teams to work with prosecutorial and judicial staff.
- Develop rapport with the judicial community to open communications and gain insight to improve casework that will impact criminal behavior.
- Promote development and use of “templates” for auto theft enforcement to simplify and provide consistency in casework that will enhance effective prosecution of cases.
- Support youth offender’s intervention.

CATPA Strategy: Develop CATPA partnerships that enhance grantee goals and objectives.

CATPA Action Items:
- Enhance and support existing partnership with the Colorado Auto Theft Investigators to provide oversight of Colorado’s needs for auto theft training, to exchange information and share expertise.
- Enhance and support existing partnership with the Auto Theft Prevention Authorities nationally and internationally.
- Enhance and support the Department of Revenue partnership with the Task Forces and Teams.
- Enhance and support auto theft insurance investigations.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Partner with the Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (CATI), auto retailers, salvage yards and other related auto industry to identify issues and develop solutions. (Business inspections salvage yards, vehicles sold at auction, etc.) Attend monthly CATI meetings.
- Proactively participate in Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) quarterly conference calls and meet work product assignments.
- Set up auto theft investigator training on the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) with the Department of Revenue through coordination with CATI’s conference.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Promotes partnerships to enhance success.
- Support grantees that excel in sharing of resources and equipment.
- Coordinate and communicate with the Department of Revenue sharing information and building resolutions to title issues.
- Develop partnerships between Task Forces and Teams and the auto industry.
- Support insurance investigative programs.
CATPA GOAL: Support Vehicle Theft Prevention through Public Awareness and Community Education

CATPA Strategy: Support local and statewide marketing and community outreach focused on auto theft prevention.

CATPA Action Items:
- Support multi-jurisdictional measures to develop and implement auto theft prevention messages, events and campaigns.
- Develop partnerships with the auto theft industry to enhance auto theft awareness and prevention for customers.
- Formalize a partnership with the Department of Revenue and the Division of Motor Vehicles to coordinate distribution of educational materials, provide employee education on auto theft and assist with law enforcement support through the auto theft Task Forces and Teams.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Promote grantee sharing of public relations ideas and activities at quarterly Project Director meetings.
- Actively participate in quarterly meetings as a Steering Committee member of the Coloradans Against Auto Theft (CAAT) to share grantee ideas and develop prevention tools.
- Update the CAAT and CATPA website monthly providing current information on auto theft prevention, victim assistance and resources, law enforcement messages and grantee information.
- Partner with the Department of Revenue to research auto theft employee training needs as well as title training for auto theft investigators.
- Research options with the Department of Revenue to host a coordinated release of auto theft prevention messages with Division of Motor Vehicle information. Develop educational materials and coordinate releases of information.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Support implementation of the auto theft brand “Lockdown” and campaign within local jurisdictions and statewide.
- Coordinate with Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (CATI) to support puffer week.
- Identify local events and target specific education measures within high auto theft areas.
- Plan a “buyer-beware” campaign with easy access to vehicle information.
- Research options to develop a public awareness of security rating systems.

CATPA Strategy: Evaluate, update and release the “Watch Your Car” or similar program.

CATPA Action Items:
- Initiate and facilitate a “Watch Your Car” Subcommittee to evaluate, modify and/or enhance the program.
- Facilitate a conference call with the Auto Theft Prevention Authorities nationally and internationally to research current “watch your car” or similar programs and their effectiveness.
- Finalize decisions to continue, modify or enhance the existing program.
- Develop media and partnerships to distribute and implement a new or enhanced existing program.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Coordinate “Watch Your Car” Subcommittee meetings.
- Release new “Watch Your Car” or similar program guidelines to grantees and partners.
- Coordinate with partners to incorporate and implement “Watch Your Car” or similar programs statewide.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Update and promote “Watch Your Car” or similar program as identified by Subcommittee.
- Support the purchase of “watch your car” or similar program materials and supplies.
CSP GOAL: Maximize Intelligence-led Strategies to Protect Life and Property

CATPA GOAL: Incorporate Intelligence Led-Policing, Strategies, and Technology to Analyze Data and Develop Target Strategies to Enhance Auto Theft Enforcement and Prevention

CATPA Strategy: Develop data driven analysis to identify trends and enforcement measures.

CATPA Action Items:
- Meet, coordinate and support a statewide data and analysis initiative to develop consistent terms, share data and facilitate communications that will enhance intelligence for on-the-ground strategies and enforcement.
- Communicate with the Auto Theft Prevention Authorities (ATPA) nationally and internationally regarding enforcement practices, equipment successes, and templates to provide resources or information to grantees.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Support and attend data and analysis meetings monthly.
- Develop grant agreement requirements of all grantees to provide law enforcement and crime analysis representation at data and analysis meetings.
- Produce an annual CATPA report.
- Develop a partnership for 24/7 reporting of auto theft leads and tips.
- Facilitate a partnership to add insurance, prosecution and judicial representation at data and analysis meetings.
- Host quarterly Project Director meetings to identify strengths and weakness in the collection of data and the development of trends and strategies.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Coordination of collection and analysis that tie with the statewide data and analysis initiative to identify trends, strategies, and actions.
- Development of baseline data and analysis focused on measuring and producing results.
- Coordination as a partner providing Crime Analyst support within the statewide data and analysis initiative.

CATPA Strategy: Through statewide data and analysis, release information within prevention messages to tie with the analysis of data.

CATPA Action Items:
- Connect the grantees, partners and stakeholders to coordinate education and prevention efforts.
- Identify data necessary to collect to meet public relations measures and releases.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Facilitate and host meetings between grantees, partners and stakeholders to identify “educational” data collection and measurable results of prevention messages and campaigns.
- Establish requirements for grantees within the grant agreement to submit necessary data for public relations messages, campaigns and releases.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Coordinate in partnership to identify needs for public relations information.
- Participate in the statewide data and analysis initiative to identify data needs for public relation releases.
CATPA Strategy: Provide a statewide approved list of vendors to reduce redundancy of effort in procurement and costs and enhance uniform standards in equipment to interface data collection and analysis.

CATPA Action Items:
- Research options on effectiveness and cost savings of a statewide bid for repetitive purchase of equipment and services, such as for license plate readers, maintenance and upgrades or telecommunication services.
- Identify databases or systems that will interface to receive data to provide statewide connectivity.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Identify a list of selected vendors through "requests for proposals" for equipment and services to be used statewide by grantees.
- Coordinate with grantees, partners and stakeholders to develop grant agreement requirements to identify measures to collect and share data.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Coordination of technology to collect data identified in the statewide data and analysis initiative.
- Measures that integrate technologies between grantees.

CATPA Strategy: Implement the Grant Process through the automated Colorado Grants Management System (COGMS).

CATPA Action Items:
- Attend scheduled meetings with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Department Physical Health and Environment and the Grant Management System contractor to provide input to meet grant process.
- Implement COGMS for CATPA grants.

CATPA Performance Measures:
- Implement the automated grant application, review, and score, tracking and monitoring system.
- Create and host a basic training for grantees to use the system to submit, review, track and monitor a grant application and award.

CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:
- Support grantees who actively participate in the Grants Management System.
**CATPA Strategy:** Oversee and manage financial accountability and develop solutions through process or legislatively to enhance CATPA goals and objectives.

**CATPA Action Items:**
- Document internal controls for the CATPA program.
- Develop an Administrative Guide as a resource for grantees to administer a CATPA grant.
- Coordinate with the CATPA Board to develop and implement the CATPA Board Operating Principles.
- Develop an on-going monitoring and audit process that includes performance and financial reviews of grants.

**CATPA Performance Measures:**
- To tie with the state fiscal year, initiate and implement a one-year plan to shift the award of grant funding to one time per year to match the timeline of the state fiscal year.
- Finalize and release the Grant Administrative Guideline, internal control narratives, the monitoring process and the CATPA operating principles.
- Define Colorado’s marginally accepted level of auto theft and grantee requirements that measure their performance to achieve this level.

**CATPA Grant Selection Priorities:**
- Detailed goal setting and performance measures to reduce auto theft.
- Financially accountable to manage budgets and expenditures to meet the program goals.
- Responsive to meet the expectations of the citizens of Colorado.
Automobile Theft Partners

• MATT - Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force
  - Boulder Police Department
  - Boulder County Sheriff’s Office
  - Erie Police Department
  - Longmont Police Department
  - Lafayette Police Department
  - Louisville Police Department
  - University of Colorado - Boulder

• Commerce City/Thornton/Adams County Auto Theft Prevention Program
  - Commerce City Police Department
  - Thornton Police Department
  - Adams County Sheriff’s Department

• DMATT - Denver Metropolitan Auto Theft Team
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Broomfield Police Department
  - Thornton Police Department
  - Englewood Police Department
  - Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office
  - Alamosa Police Department
  - Castle Rock Police Department
  - Glendale Police Department
  - Monte Vista Police Department
  - National Insurance Crime Bureau
  - Costilla County Sheriff’s Office
  - National Insurance Crime Bureau

• EMATT - Eastern Metro Auto Theft Team
  - Aurora Police Department
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Commerce City Police Department
  - Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office
  - Douglas County Sheriff’s Office
  - Englewood Police Department

• MATT - Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (cont.)
  - Westminster Police Department
  - Jefferson & Denver County District Attorney’s Office
  - National Insurance Crime Bureau
  - Allstate Insurance Company

• NRATT - Regional Auto Theft Team of Northern Colorado
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Colorado Department of Revenue/Auto Industry
  - Fort Collins Police Department
  - Greeley Police Department
  - Johnstown Police Department
  - Larimer County Sheriff’s Department
  - Longmont Police Department
  - Loveland Police Department
  - Weld County Sheriff’s Department
  - University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

• SCATT - Southern Colorado Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force
  - Colorado Springs Police Department
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
  - Fort Carson
  - Fountain Police Department
  - Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office
  - Pueblo Police Department
  - Manitou Police Department
  - Monument Police Department
  - National Insurance Crime Bureau
  - University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
  - Woodland Park Police Department

• South Area Auto Theft Task Force
  - Littleton Police Department
  - Sheridan Police Department

• WCATT - Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force
  - Grand Junction Police Department
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Mesa County Sheriff’s Office
  - Fruita Police Department
  - Mesa County District Attorney’s Office

• SWATT - Southwest Regional Auto Theft Task Force
  - Montezuma County Sheriff’s Office
  - Cortez Police Department
  - Durango Police Department
  - Colorado State Patrol

• STATEWIDE PROJECTS
  - Attorney General’s Auto Theft Prosecution Initiative
    - Colorado Department of Law - Colorado Attorney General’s Office and all Task Forces and Teams
  - CAAT - Coloradoans Against Auto Theft
    - Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association
    - Colorado State Patrol, AAA Colorado, LoJack and all Task Forces and Teams
  - ATICC - Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center
    - Colorado State Patrol, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Colorado Information Analysis Center, Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Department of Public Safety, and all Task Forces and Teams
  - CATI - Auto Theft Investigators Conference and Training
    - Colorado Law Enforcement and Insurance Auto Theft Investigators, LoJack and all Task Forces and Teams
A Glimpse of Colorado’s Auto Theft

Challenges of Auto Theft Management
- Economy
- Property Crime to Violent Crime
- Stolen Vehicles that Leave Colorado
- Public Awareness and Education
- Lack of Recoveries
- Un-chopped Recoveries
- Partnerships in Enforcement
- Partnerships in Prosecution
- Consistent Data and Analysis
- Funding

Auto Theft Interventions
- Education
- Public Awareness
- Officer Training
- Legislative Communication
- Resources
  - Law Enforcement
  - Prosecution
  - Public Relations
  - Crime Analysis
  - Industry
  - Regulation
- Strategic Planning

Reduction in Auto Theft
- Emerging Technology
- CATPA Implementation
- Cooperative Task Forces
- Partnerships in Analysis
- Public Relations Initiatives

Auto Theft Motivations
- Basic Transportation
- Tool to Commit other Crimes
- Profit
  - Parts
  - Exports
  - Resale
  - Insurance Fraud


(1) There is hereby created in the department of public safety the automobile theft prevention authority, referred to in this section as the “authority”. Under the authority, a law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant may apply for grants to assist in improving and supporting automobile theft prevention programs or programs for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes through statewide planning and coordination.

(2)(a) There is hereby created the automobile theft prevention board, referred to in this section as the “board”, which shall consist of eleven members as follows:

(i) The executive director of the department of public safety, or the executive director’s designee;

(ii) The executive director of the department of revenue, or the executive director’s designee; and

(iii) Nine members appointed by the governor as follows:

(A) Five representatives of insurance companies who are authorized to issue motor vehicle insurance policies pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 10, C.R.S.;

(B) Two representatives of law enforcement;

(C) A representative of a statewide association of district attorneys; and

(D) A representative of the public who may also be a representative of a consumer group.

(b) The governor shall appoint members of the board within thirty days after the governor receives notification pursuant to subsection(5) of this section that moneys in the fund exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars. The appointed members of the board shall serve terms of six years; except that, of the members first appointed pursuant to sub-subparagraph(A) of subparagraph(III) of paragraph(a) of this subsection(2), the governor shall select one member who shall serve an initial term of four years and one member who shall serve an initial term of two years. Of the members first appointed pursuant to sub-subparagraph(B) of subparagraph(III) of paragraph(a) of this subsection(2), the governor shall select one member who shall serve an initial term of two years. The member first appointed pursuant to sub-subparagraph(C) of subparagraph(III) of paragraph(a) of this subsection(2) shall serve an initial term of four years. No appointed member shall serve more than two consecutive six-year terms.

(b.5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph(b) of this subsection(2), of the two additional members appointed to the board pursuant to Senate Bill 08-060, enacted at the second regular session of the sixty-sixth general assembly, one member shall serve an initial term of four years and one member shall serve an initial term of two years.
(c) The members of the board shall serve without compensation; except that the members of the board shall be reimbursed from moneys in the fund created in subsection(4) of this section for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this section.

(3)(a) The board shall solicit and review applications for grants pursuant to this section. The board may award grants for one to three years. The board shall give priority to applications representing multijurisdictional programs. Each application, at a minimum, shall describe the type of theft prevention, enforcement, prosecution, or offender rehabilitation program to be implemented. Such programs may include, but need not be limited to:

(I) Multi-agency law enforcement and national insurance crime bureau task force programs using proactive investigative methods to reduce the incidents of motor vehicle theft and related crimes and to increase the apprehension of motor vehicle thieves and persons who attempt to defraud insurance companies in order to:
   (A) Direct proactive investigative and enforcement efforts toward the reduction of motor vehicle thefts;
   (B) Increase recoveries of stolen motor vehicles, including farm and construction equipment; and
   (C) Increase the arrests of perpetrators;

(II) Programs that engage in crime prevention efforts, activities, and public awareness campaigns that are intended to reduce the public’s victimization by motor vehicle theft, fraud, and related crimes;

(III) Programs that provide or develop specialized training for motor vehicle theft investigations personnel, including but not limited to law enforcement personnel, county title and registration clerks, division of revenue title clerks, and port-of-entry officials, in order to enhance knowledge, skills, procedures, and systems to detect, prevent, and combat motor vehicle theft and fraud and related crimes;

(IV) Programs to provide for the support and maintenance of one or more dedicated prosecutors who have the specific mission and expertise to provide legal guidance and prosecutorial continuity to complex criminal cases arising from the activities of a multi-agency law enforcement program; and

(V) Programs to prevent future criminal behavior by first time offenders who have been charged, convicted, or adjudicated for motor vehicle theft.

(b) Subject to available moneys, the board shall approve grants pursuant to this section. In selecting grant recipients, the board, to the extent possible, shall ensure that grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants in a variety of geographic areas of the state. The board shall not require as a condition of receipt of a grant that an agency, political subdivision, or other qualified applicant provide any additional moneys to operate an automobile theft prevention program or a program for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes.

(c) Subject to available moneys, the board may appoint a director for the authority who may employ such staff as may be necessary to operate and administer the authority.

(d) No more than eight percent of the moneys in the fund created pursuant to subsection(4) of this section may be used for operational or administrative expenses of the authority.

(e) The FTE authorization for any staff necessary to support the authority shall be eliminated should sufficient moneys from gifts, grants, or donations no longer be available for the authority.

(f) The executive director of the department of public safety shall promulgate rules for the administration of this section, including but not limited to:

(I) Requirements for an entity other than a law enforcement agency to be a qualified applicant;

(II) Application procedures by which law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants may apply for grants pursuant to this section;

(III) The criteria for selecting those agencies or other qualified applicants that shall receive grants and the criteria for determining the amount to be granted to the selected agencies or applicants and the duration of the grants; and

(IV) Procedures for reviewing the success of the programs that receive grants pursuant to this section.

(g) On or before December 1, 2006, any law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant that receives a grant pursuant to this section shall submit a report to the board concerning the implementation of the program funded through the grant.

(h) On or before February 1, 2007, the board shall report to the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives on the implementation of the programs receiving grants pursuant to this section and the authority. The report shall include but need not be limited to:

(I) The number and geographic jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants that received grants under the authority and the amount and duration of the grants;

(II) The effect that the programs that received grants had on the number of automobile thefts in areas of the state; and

(III) Recommendations for legislative changes to assist in the prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of automobile-theft-related criminal activities.

(4)(a) The department of public safety is authorized to accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this section. All private and public funds received through gifts, grants, or donations shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund, which fund is hereby created and referred to in this section as the “fund”. The fund shall also include the moneys deposited in the fund pursuant to section 10-4-617, C.R.S. The moneys in the fund shall be subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for the direct and indirect costs associated with the implementation of this section. Any moneys in the fund not expended for the purpose of this section may be invested by the state treasurer as provided in section 24-36-113, C.R.S. All interest and income derived from the investment and deposit of moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or any other fund.

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly that the department of public safety not be required to solicit gifts, grants, or donations from any source for the purposes of this section and that no general fund moneys be used to pay for grants awarded pursuant to this section or for any expenses of the authority.

(5)(a) The state treasurer shall notify the governor and the executive directors of the departments of public safety and revenue the first time that the moneys in the fund reach or exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars.
(b) If by June 1, 2008, moneys in the fund have not reached or exceeded three hundred thousand dollars, the state treasurer shall return from the fund to the grantee or donee the amount of all gifts, grants, or donations. If gifts, grants, and donations are returned pursuant to this paragraph(b), on July 1, 2008, the treasurer shall transfer to the general fund any interest or income earned on moneys in the fund.

(6)(a) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2018.

(b) Prior to said repeal, the authority created pursuant to subsection(1) of this section and the board created pursuant to subsection(2) of this section shall be reviewed as provided for in section 24-34-104, C.R.S.


Cross references: For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending the introductory portions to subsections(2)(a) and(2)(a)(III)(II) and enacting subsection(2)(b.5), see section 1 of chapter 415, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.


Beginning in the 2008-09 fiscal year, and every two years thereafter, the state auditor shall cause an audit to be made of the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund created in section 42-5-112 (4) to include procedures to test distributions from the fund for compliance with program requirements and guidelines. The auditor shall review a sample of distributions and expenditures from the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund for the purposes described in section 42-5-112. The state auditor shall prepare a report of each audit conducted and file the report with the audit committee of the general assembly. Following the release of the audit report, the state auditor shall file the audit report with the judiciary committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees.


Cross references: For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act enacting this section, see section 1 of chapter 415, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

(1) Each insurer that issues a policy pursuant to this part or part 7 of this article shall biannually pay a fee to the automobile theft prevention board, created pursuant to section 42-5-112, C.R.S., for the support of the automobile theft prevention authority. Upon receiving payment, the board shall transfer the amount received to the state treasurer for deposit in the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund created in section 42-5-112 (4), C.R.S. The amount of the fee shall be equal to one dollar multiplied by the number of motor vehicles insured by the insurer as of July 1 of each year, divided by two. The insurer shall report the number of insured motor vehicles and pay the assessed biannual fee as follows:

(a) On or before August 15, 2008, and on or before August 15 each year thereafter, the insurer shall notify the automobile theft prevention board of the number of motor vehicles insured by that insurer as of July 1 of that year; and

(b) On or before January 1, 2009, and July 1, 2009, and on or before January 1 and July 1 each year thereafter, the insurer shall pay to the automobile theft prevention board the assessed biannual fee in the amount specified in this subsection (1).

(2) On or before February 1, 2009, and on or before February 1 each year thereafter, the automobile theft prevention board shall compare the list of insurers who paid the biannual fee with the list compiled by the department of insurance of all insurance companies licensed to insure motor vehicles in the state and shall notify the commissioner of the department of insurance of any insurer’s failure to pay the fee prescribed in subsection (1) of this section. Upon receiving notice of an insurer’s failure to pay the fee, the commissioner shall notify the insurer of the fee requirement. If the insurer fails to pay the fee to the automobile theft prevention board within fifteen days after receiving the notice, the commissioner may suspend the insurer’s certificate of authority or impose a civil penalty of not more than one hundred twenty percent of the amount due, or both. The insurer shall pay the civil penalty to the commissioner. The commissioner shall transfer the amount received to the state treasurer who shall credit the amount to the Colorado auto theft prevention cash fund, created in section 42-5-112 (4), C.R.S.

(3) For the purposes of this section, “insurer” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 10-1-102 (13) that covers the operation of a motor vehicle.

(4) (a) Each insurer subject to the provisions of this section is hereby authorized to recoup the fee required in subsection (1) of this section from its policyholders.

(b) Each insurer subject to the provisions of this section shall not raise its premiums based on the fee required in subsection (1) of this section from its policyholders.

(5) As used in this section, “motor vehicle” does not include vehicles or vehicle combinations with a declared gross weight of more than twenty-six thousand pounds.

: Entire section added, p. 1330, § 2, effective April 22.: Entire section amended, p. 2098, § 4, effective July 1.

Editor’s note: This section was originally numbered as § 10-4-616 in House Bill 03-1251 but has been renumbered on revision for ease of location.

Cross references: For the legislative declaration contained in the 2008 act amending this section, see section 1 of chapter 415, Session Laws of Colorado 2008.

Colorado’s Top Ten

Stolen Vehicles

1. 1996 Honda Accord
2. 1995 Honda Civic
3. 1995 Acura Integra
4. 2001 Dodge Ram
5. 1991 Toyota Camry
6. 1995 Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
7. 1998 Ford 150 Pickup
8. 1994 Saturn SL
9. 2001 Jeep Cherokee
10. 2000 Ford F250 Pickup

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau