



# CASE STUDY

Trkke Patrol Vehicles Improve Norfolk Police Presence in the Community



SCAN ME

## CUSTOMER

Norfolk  
Police Department, Norfolk, VA

## CHALLENGES

More effectively deliver policing services and improve community policing.

## SOLUTION

- Deploy Eight Trikke Positron in order to:
- Improve operational and community policing staff's mobility and visibility
  - Increase patrol presence throughout the city particularly in congested areas
  - Improve community-based policing efforts



Norfolk Police Department, Norfolk, VA (NPD) is a law enforcement agency responsible for maintaining public safety and order in Norfolk, Virginia. In recent years, the department has been experimenting with innovative transportation solutions to enhance their community policing efforts. One of the solutions that NPD has implemented is the Trikke Positron, a three-wheeled, electric-powered vehicle designed for law enforcement applications.

## Background

NPD has a large jurisdiction, covering an area of 96 square miles and serving a population of over 240,000 residents. In the past, officers used bicycles or patrol cars to navigate through the city, but these modes of transportation had their limitations. Bicycles were not suitable for officers who needed to cover longer distances quickly, while patrol cars were too large to access certain areas and sometimes intimidated residents.

## Solution

In 2019, NPD decided to pilot the Trikke Positron in its community policing efforts. The Trikke Positron is a unique vehicle that combines the mobility of a bicycle with the speed and comfort of an electric-powered vehicle. Its compact design allows officers to easily maneuver through tight spaces, making it ideal for patrolling parks, sidewalks, and other areas that are not accessible to patrol cars. The Trikke Positron is also equipped with a top speed of 35 mph, allowing officers to quickly respond to emergency situations.

## Results

The introduction of the Trikke Positron has had a positive impact on NPD's community policing efforts. Officers have reported that the vehicle is easy to use and has helped them establish a closer connection with residents. "Everywhere that you go, citizens stop. They want to know what they are, what they're called, if they can get one," said Officer Mitchel Ashton. The Trikke Positron's unique design has also attracted attention from the public, making officers more approachable and improving community relations. Additionally, the vehicle's electric-powered motor has reduced the department's carbon footprint and operating costs, as it is less expensive to operate than patrol cars. "They're far superior to any other electric mobility device that we looked into," said Officer Mitchel Ashton.

## Conclusion

The Norfolk Police Department's adoption of the Trikke Positron has been a successful experiment in enhancing community policing efforts. By providing officers with an innovative transportation solution, NPD has been able to improve their accessibility, reduce their carbon footprint, and enhance community relations. "We see so many advantages to using the Trikkes. They facilitate interaction with people, improve visibility and project a presence that helps to deter crime. They're a very valuable tool," said Officer Mitchel Ashton. The Trikke Positron has proven to be a versatile and effective tool in modern policing, and other law enforcement agencies may benefit from considering its use.

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