



State police nix traffic survey plans

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PITTSBURGH (AP) — The state police halted a plan that would have asked motorists in 10 southwestern Pennsylvania counties to fill out traffic surveys.

Planners at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission had wanted to randomly stop motorists on the region's busy highways and ask them to fill out surveys about where they had been and where they were going. The survey would help the regional planning group better use federal transportation dollars, according to the commission.

But state police had never agreed to participate in the plan, said state police spokesman Jack J. Lewis.

"It is my understanding now that the survey will be conducted at rest areas and through newspaper ads and PennDOT office locations," Lewis said. "There will be no traffic survey checkpoints."

There also were safety concerns about conducting traffic stops along busy highways where the speed limit can be up to 65 mph, said Trooper Linette Quinn.

Some of the stops would have been on Interstate 70 in Washington County, Interstate 79 in Greene County and other busy roadways.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

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