



# Inland News

## Riverside police add scooters for downtown patrols



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The Press-Enterprise

**Video:** [The new T3 scooters at Riverside PD](#)

Riverside police are zipping through downtown on their latest gadgets.

On Thursday, the Police Department and the nonprofit Riverside Downtown Partnership unveiled two new three-wheel patrol vehicles.

The scooters, called T3 vehicles, will allow police to navigate plazas and parks as well as city streets and will give officers a more visible presence downtown, said Riverside police Lt. Chuck Griffiths.

Police will use the T3s five days a week in the area stretching from White Park to the Marketplace and First and Market streets. The new vehicles will also be used at various events in the city, Griffiths said.

The Riverside Police Department is the first Inland agency to purchase the T3s, Griffiths said. The Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles International Airport have also purchased about 40 of them.

Riverside parking officers use similar two-wheel Segway vehicles, but police opted for the T3 as a more stable, equipped vehicle for pedestrian patrols.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department uses the Segway in Temecula, San Jacinto and Palm Desert. Segways are also used by the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department and Redlands police.

Story continues below



Silvia Flores / The Press-Enterprise  
Riverside police Officers Javier Cabrera, right, and Scott Levesque demonstrate the department's recently purchased scooters, known as T3s.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department is happy with the Segways, Executive Officer Tom Freeman said.

The T3 vehicles were purchased for \$10,300 each with the cost split by the Police Department and the Riverside Downtown Partnership, said Janice L. Penner, the partnership's executive director. The partnership is a private organization of business owners and directors that works with the city on downtown planning and events.

"When people see it, they think Robocop," Penner said. "This brings more security and allows more access to police. People want to feel comfortable downtown."

Officials bought the scooters from T3 Motion, an Irvine-based company that sells exclusively to police, security and government agencies.

Powered by a rechargeable lithium battery, the vehicles can travel as rapidly as about 20 mph and can make sharp turns and abrupt stops.

They are specially designed to carry equipment and won't tip over if the driver has to jump off in the middle of a pursuit. Officers can jump curbs, drive over grass and use lights and sirens if needed.

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