

Trek Public Safety Bicycle

by Paul Conner, PCI #627

Anne Arundel County Police (MD)

“Awesome!” was the only word that came to mind when I saw my new 2005 Police Model Trek sitting in the bike shop waiting for me.

Having been a member of a full-time bike unit for the last eight years, riding a 1997 Fuji police model, you can imagine my excitement at having a new Trek. My supervisor at the time, Captain James Teare, had spoken to our bike unit earlier in the year and inquired if we needed anything. The first words out of my mouth were “new bikes, sir.” Within a few months our Captain had freed up some budget funds and we were tasked with finding the right bike for our unit.

After researching numerous internet sites and using the IPMBA website for e-mailing other instructors throughout the country, we decided on the Trek front suspension police model.

The list price of the front suspension model was \$899, but we were able to negotiate the price down slightly, to \$859, at a local bike shop. The shop owner recommended that we also purchase Trek’s Interchange Police Bag, which clicks right into the rear rack. After looking at the rear rack and determining our old Jandd bags wouldn’t fit well, we opted for the new Interchange bags, priced at \$49.99 each.

Time to Ride

We didn’t care that it was January, we didn’t care about the snow on the ground, we didn’t care that our shift ended in 20 minutes, we were going out for a ride. The first detail I noticed was the bike was silent – and I mean no noise at all. We were used to the “quiet” clutch hub of the Fuji, but Shimano’s Nexave Silent Clutch hub is incredible. This bike is pure stealth.

The bike is very comfortable, and I immediately liked the raised Bontrager Sport handlebar stem that allows you to ride at a more upright position than the traditional mountain bike position. It really makes riding all day easier on the back. The shifting was smooth and accurate with the Shimano components, and I found the bike easy to handle.

The Test

Having ridden the Trek just about every day for nine months now, I feel confident enough to give my opinion on the bike.

Likes

Weight of bike and components – makes slow speed riding and off-road trails more manageable.

Stealth factor – our drug arrests are up about 20%.

Front suspension – the Manitou 100 mm police shock has yet to bottom out, leaving us plenty of travel.

Quality – lots of high-end components make the bike a joy to ride, and it has held up to the rigors of police work.

Dislikes

Maintenance – seemed because of the higher-end components, the cost of tune-ups increased, and when the bike picked up dirt from the street, the shifting was affected. The bike needs a lot more washes than the Fuji ever did.

Interchange bag – don’t waste your money unless you don’t need a lot of room. Yes, the bag snaps right on and off, but good luck getting your citation books, reports, and maintenance kit inside the one-

pocket bag. The bag has also snapped off numerous times from a sudden shock to the bike.

Overall

This is the bike to have for police work. Well worth the price, it just needs to be properly maintained.

Drive-train

Crankset	Bontrager Select 48/36/26, 6056 Alloy
Front Derailleur	Shimano Nexave 401
Rear Derailleur	Shimano Deore XT
Shifters	Shimano Alivio
Cassette	SRAM 830 11-32, 8-speed
Chain	Shimano HG
Pedals	Alloy ATM with clips and straps
Wheels	
Hubset	Shimano Nexave silent clutch hubs
Spokes	15 g stainless steel
Rims	Bontrager Clyde
Tires	Bontrager Comfort Hardcase

Other Components

Frame	Alpha SLR aluminum in 15.5, 17.5, 19.5, 21.5
Brakes	Shimano 420 V with power modulator
Handlebars	Bontrager Select, 25.4, 600 custom-buffed
Headset	Aheadset, semi-cartridge, VP-A76C
Stem	Bontrager sport, 25.4
Seatpost	Bontrager sport
Saddle	Bontrager sport, CRZ + HC
Front suspension	Manitou Black Comp Police, 100mm

Standard EMS Additions

Headlamps	Nightsun, 10 to 30 watts output, four-hour run time, NiCa rechargeable battery.
Rack	Jandl Mountaineering
Kickstand	Heavy duty, rear mount

Officer Paul Conner has been a police officer in Baltimore City and is currently an 11-year veteran of the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Ofc. Conner is a full time police cyclist and PCI #627 for IPMBA.

Trek....Another View

by Jennifer C. Gregg

East Baton Rouge EMS (LA)

I had the opportunity to test ride the Trek 2005 public safety bicycle over the past few months. The majority of our bicycle fleet is comprised of Raleighs but we also have four Cannondales. The usage pattern in our department demands durability, strength, and dependability, so I was eager to put the new Trek to the test. I was very pleased with the public safety model and hope we will be able to incorporate more of them as our team continues to grow.

Unlike the police, we do not do daily patrols; instead, we have periodic heavy use such as during football season, at holiday parades, and, of course, Mardi Gras. During football season, we're often on the bicycles for 13 hours, confronting everything from urban obstacles like sets of stairs and curbs to densely packed crowds of tailgaters. These conditions are challenging to say the least, and are compounded by the fact that we carry between twenty-four and twenty-eight pounds of gear on our racks. That is why I found the 2005 Trek to be such a workhorse. It is rock solid, can take an enormous amount of punishment and still manage to smoothly shift gears and effectively brake.

On my first ride, I immediately took off for the levee and some off-road action followed by a grueling trip through downtown Baton Rouge. The front shock handled every curb, railroad track, and set of stairs I encountered without any trouble whatsoever. A little research revealed that the Manitou Black Comp, which comes standard on these Treks, is a modified Black Elite, which is designed for trail riding. It has a set travel (100-mm) OEM-only coil spring fork with fluid flow damping. The engineers at Trek definitely had us in mind when they chose this front fork.

The combination of Bontrager and Shimano components works well and allows the rider complete control. This is reassuring when you have to quickly downshift and then brake to avoid a slow-moving group of parade- or party-goers. The Alpha SLR aluminum frame is light enough that I am able to pick the bike up and carry it even when it is fully loaded. The Bontrager Sport saddle held up well during the longer rides. It is anatomically designed to provide relief to 'soft tissue areas' and has a honeycomb gel infrastructure. This bicycle combines rugged durability with performance and would be an excellent addition to any public safety cycling unit.

There were only a few minor changes between the 2004 and 2005 models, and there are no changes planned for the 2006 Police Bike at this time. Suggested retail price for the 2005 Police Bike is \$989.99 plus shipping and handling. This price is only for a front suspension model. If you decide a full suspension model is right for your department then you can expect to pay \$1319.99 plus shipping and handling.

Jen has been a medic for four years and a member of the bike team for a year and a half. She can be reached at JGREGG@brgov.com.

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