

## Roadway Departure & Intersection Crashes CHSP Emphasis Area Meeting

MDT Planning Conference Room A  
Les Schwab Building- 2960 Prospect Avenue – Helena, MT  
Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 10:00 – noon



**VISION ZERO**  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

### Attendees:

Roy Peterson, Traffic & Safety Engineering, (MDT) - chair  
Marcee Allen, FHWA  
Danielle Bolan, Operations Engineer (MDT)  
Stan Brelin, Operations Engineer (MDT)  
Patricia Burke, Safety Engineer (MDT)  
Sheila Cozzie, Cultural Liaison (MDT)  
Ed Ereth, Data & Statistics Bureau (MDT)  
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Program Coordinator, (MDT)  
Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, (MDT)  
Carl Peil, AARP Driving Instructor  
Via Skype  
David Gray, Missoula MPO Transportation  
Bill Squires, Highways Design Engineer (MDT)

**Approval of Minutes** -February 27, 2019 by consensus.

### Crash Data

Year to Date 2019 Crash Data, as of April 22, 2019, there have been 25 fatalities compared to 32 last year at this time.

### Old Business –

**Strategy 1: Cable median barrier warrants-** Roy Peterson provided an overview of the cable barrier warrant study conducted by CDM Smith. The purpose of this study is to provide MDT with statewide guidelines and warrants for the installation of median cable rail on their interstate system. Findings include:

- Median cable rail has proven to be cost effective in preventing fatalities and severe injuries caused by crossover median crashes (CMC)
- These crash types could be reduced by 83% to 100% based on the results of the most recent installation by MDT
- Studies conducted in other states have shown an expected crash reduction range from 52% to 96%
- Cable barrier requires routine maintenance, but repairs require less effort and are less costly than the alternative.

Peterson will be presenting the findings and recommendations to MDT management. If approved by management, then cable barrier projects will be programmed. Ed Ereth asked if there was any thought if LRS potential to track and inventory, Roy will follow up. Project reviews will include MDT, Motor Carriers, and MHP staff.

- Project Status: Completed. Next step: Implementation.

**Strategy 3: Reduce roadway departure and intersection crashes through education. Research Project: MVD Safety Content Project** - Roy Peterson reported that the project will seek to utilize MSU-Billings to coordinate research activities including post surveys to determine what was seen and if it was impactful. MSU-Billings is preparing a proposal. Anticipated kickoff is the fall semester of 2019.

- Project Status: Update to be provided at July meeting.

### **Strategy 6: Explore and implement best practices for reducing road departure... Research Project: Developing a Methodology for Implementing Safety Improvements on Low-Volume Roads in Montana**

Purpose: Develop a methodology for identifying and prioritizing locations on local roads at the network level deserving of Highway Safety Improvement Projects. Project was presented to Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (MACRS) to inform stakeholders of ongoing project and solicit feedback. Kick off meeting was held on 2/25. The research project timeline is 18 months. Updates will be provided as they occur.

## **New Business-**

### **Strategy 3: Reduce roadway departure and intersection crashes through education –Teen Peer-to-Peer Safety**

**Program** - Sheila Cozzie will reported on the Teen Peer-to-Peer safety program and collaboration between Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and MDT with funding from Ford's Driving Skills for Life, National Safety Council (NSC) and NHTSA to engage teens in youth led safety campaigns in their schools. During the 2018-19 school year, 16 FCCLA school chapters participated in developing safety campaigns focusing on risky driving behaviors and includes distracted driving this year. Students have been implementing these campaigns since October. Awards winners were announced in March 22and the top three chapters were: North Star, Terry, Shepherd.

## **Legislative Report Out**

- **HB 580 - Require public notice for initial rumble strip projects (shoulder and centerline).** This bill would require a project to be potentially classified as having a substantial impact (as determined by the transportation commission) if rumbles are placed 600 feet from a residence. Primary Sponsor: Rhonda Knudsen (R) HD 34. Bill passed by Legislature--Enrolling and Final Preparation Process.
- **SB317, Revise transportation weight limits and permits,** "AN ACT CREATING A WINTERTIME 10% OVERWEIGHT PERMIT AND A DURATIONAL 10% OVERWEIGHT PERMIT; REQUIRING A FEE TO OBTAIN THE PERMIT; AMENDING SECTION 61-10-125, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE." (Wintertime time frame: Dec 1- Mar 7) Primary Sponsor: Mike Lang (R) SD 17. Bill passed by Legislature--Enrolling and Final Preparation Process
- **HB 393 Change truck speed limits,** RAISING THE SPEED LIMIT FOR TRUCKS ON FEDERAL-AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS TO 70 MILES AN HOUR; RAISING THE SPEED LIMIT FOR TRUCKS ON OTHER PUBLIC HIGHWAYS TO 65 MILES AN HOUR AT ALL TIMES. Bill passed: Enrolling and Final Preparation Process.  
Impact: Eliminating the speed differential should help reduce the incidents of impatient drivers who make risky passing maneuvers.
- **HB 440- Revise special speed zone law-primary.** This bill removes the 50 mile restriction for setting special speed limit zone if a study recommends it and allow for variable speed limits and allows for variable speed limits - "AN ACT REVISING SPECIAL SPEED ZONE LAWS; ALLOWING FOR SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS FOR HIGH CRASH FREQUENCY CORRIDORS; **ALLOWING FOR TEMPORARY & SPECIAL REDUCED LIMITS IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY, ADVERSE WEATHER, OR OTHER FACTORS IMPACTING SAFE TRAVEL;** AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-309, MCA." . Bill passed- Enrolling and Final Preparation Process
- **HB 190 Revise local government authority to set school zone speed limits,** AN ACT ALLOWING A LOCAL AUTHORITY TO SET A SPEED LIMIT IN A SCHOOL ZONE OR NEAR A SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER WITHOUT AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-310, MCA; Bill passed & sent to Governor-Law.

## **Upcoming Meetings Scheduled & Adjournment**

- ELT Meeting: Thursday, May 9
- Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 16
- Next EA Meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10 am-noon, Conference Room A
- Emergency Medical Services Grant closes June 30, [https://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/grants\\_ems.shtml](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/grants_ems.shtml)

## **Meeting Adjourned**

### **2019 Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10 am-noon, Conference Room A

Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 10 am-noon, Conference Room A\*\*

Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 10 am-noon, Conference Room A

\*\* Last meeting before the Annual Meeting (10/9&10)