

**CHSP Roadway Departure & Intersection Crashes
Emphasis Area Virtual Meeting**

Agenda

Thursday, March 18, 2021
10 a.m.- noon



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

Attendees:

Marcee Allen, Safety Engineer, FHWA
John Althof, Rail Highway Safety, Traffic & Safety (T&S) Engineering, MDT
Eric Belford, Operations Motor Carrier Services (MCS), MDT
Stan Brelin, Traffic Operations, T&S, Engineering, MDT
Patricia Burke, Safety Engineer, T&S, Engineering, MDT
Bruce Holmes, Administrator, Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Mike Gehl, Safety Coordinator, Motor Carriers of Montana (MCM)
Shari Graham, Emergency Medical Services, DPHHS
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan, Planning, MDT
Sheila Ludlow, Bicycle & Pedestrian rep/ Multimodal Planning & Communications Section Supervisor, MDT
Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, SHTSS, MDT
Gabe Priebe, Traffic & Safety Bureau, Engineering, MDT
Bill Squires, Highways Design Engineer, MDT
Matt Ulberg, Director, Montana Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP), MSU

Meeting Purpose –Strategy Update

Strategy 1: Reduce and mitigate roadway departure crashes through data driven problem identification and the use of best practices.

S1.1 Continue to Implement the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)- annual program is ongoing.

S1.2 Continue to support and implement Roadway Departure Plan- updated models based on recent five years.

Strategy 2: Reduce and mitigate speed-related roadway departure/intersection crashes.

S2.1 Continued implementation of Speed Enforcement Campaigns - COVID impacted speed enforcement campaigns by 15 percent. The State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) has received several law enforcement mini-grant applications in anticipation of communities planning upcoming events.

S2.3 Continue to implement and consider speed management methodologies appropriate for Montana. Traffic Operations staff is reviewing and looking at methodologies appropriate for Montana.

Strategy 3: Reduce roadway departure and intersection crashes through traffic safety education.

S3.1 AARP Driver Skills Training

Although in-person classes were canceled March 13, 2020, in the first 10 weeks of 2020 there were 25 classes with 254 participants. Total online class participants in 2020 was 1,023.

S3.2 Sustain and continue to provide Share the Road and No-Zone training focusing on operating around large vehicles. Due to COVID restrictions, training for high school youth was canceled. Training programs will be assessed to determine future training opportunities.

S3.5 Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS) Training

2020 training was canceled. In 2021, Basic Rider, Basic Riders 2, and Advanced Rider courses have been scheduled and are being filled in Bozeman, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Sidney, and Malmstrom AFB. Billings has lost the training site and is looking for new location. Additional training information can be found at <https://motorcycle.msun.edu/>

S3.6 Continue to promote Montana Operation Lifesaver(MOL)- RR safety program.

MOL coordinator position is vacant. Current activities include PSAs for Bozeman, officer training in the Glasgow area, and trespassing enforcement in the Billings area.

S3.7 Continue to provide and enhance traffic safety information for bicyclist and pedestrians and other non-motorized transportation system users. State Bicycle /Pedestrian Coordinator is working on outreach plan and materials for all ages including PSAs and MDT social media.

Strategy 4: Reduce and mitigate intersection crashes through data-driven problem identification and the use of best practices.

S4.1 Implement the Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program
Working with Montana Rail Link and BNSF on several projects across the state

S4.2 Working with Operations on various sites to address safety & operational needs.

Strategy 5: Continue to improve the accuracy, completeness, integration, timeliness, uniformity, collection, and accessibility of safety (fatality and serious injury, traffic, and roadway) data used in traffic safety analysis.

S5.1 Updating crash database, will be working with consultant for development. Tentatively set to be ready by end of 2021.

S5.2 Creating crash database dashboards. Phase I to include CHSP and Planning Division.

Strategy 6: Support and increase enforcement of proper road use behaviors by all road users (motorized and nonmotorized) identified through crash data.

S6.1 Continue to conduct and implement Operation Safe Driver campaigns. Annual program is ongoing. Motor Carriers Division- Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) will be conducting CMV safety programs in 2021.

S6.2 Continue to support the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) high visibility enforcement STEP and SETT programs. Support is ongoing. MHP has not request district enforcement maps showing impaired & unrestrained vehicle occupant fatality maps for public education and outreach within the patrol districts.

Strategy 7: Explore and implement best practices for reducing roadway departure, including distracted and fatigued driving, in addition to other behavioral factors.

S7.1. Low volume rural roads research project is ongoing and anticipated to be completed by end of 2021.

S7.2 Research project of highway safety public education at Montana Motor Vehicle Division and Vehicle Registration Stations by streaming safety videos is moving forward. The video sequence is being confirmed and approval for use is being sought. Long-term vision is to use on MDT site.

S7.3 Proposed: Research safety evaluation of sinusoidal centerline rumble strips. This project is in progress and is expected to be a long-term project as sufficient data is necessary to determine effectiveness. This treatment will be constructed in the Missoula District in 2021.

Legislative Tracking relative to the Emphasis Area-

- HJ 10, Provide for an interim study regarding autonomous vehicle use in Montana, sponsored by Denley Loge (R) HD 14
- HB 237, Hands free electronic devices in Construction Zones, sponsored by Denley Loge (R)HD 14, tabled.
- HB 264, Move over for Emergency Vehicles Revise emergency vehicle passing laws, sponsored by Ross Fitzgerald (R) HD 17.
- HB 562, Generally revise highway encroachment laws, sponsored by Julie Dooling, (R) HD 70
- SB 9, Provide for motorcycle filtering, sponsored by Russell Tempel (R) SD 14, passed, and assigned chapter Number 52.
- SJ 22, Interim study of the emergency medical services laws, sponsored by Edith McClafferty (D) SD 38
- SB 377, Revise emergency services licensing laws, sponsored by Edith McClafferty (D) SD 38

Next Meeting – April 29 from 10:30-noon.

Agenda Topic-

Gabe Preibe spoke on the concern of the increase of motor vehicle fatalities during 2020 and the above average numbers to date and how to respond to questions from stakeholders. Some of the questions include what can be done to prevent a repeat of 2020, was it a result of COVID and more driving, where did the fatal crashes occur, and what were the factors. Gabe recommended that the emphasis area team discuss at the upcoming April meeting.

Pam Langve-Davis recommended that Janet Kenny with the State Highway Traffic Safety Section here within MDT be included as a major component of the NHTSA program is public safety education and outreach. Any approach determined should include everyone involved in the CHSP to ensure consistency and align with Vision Zero. Pam will reach out to Highway Traffic Safety and extend an invitation to the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned