

**CHSP Roadway Departure & Intersection-related Crashes
Emphasis Area Virtual Meeting**
Thursday, January 27, 2022



Attendees:

Bruce Holmes, Montana Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Damian Krings, Road Design, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
David Gray, Transportation Planner- Infrastructure and Mobility Planning, Missoula MPO
Gabe Priebe, Traffic & Safety Bureau, MDT
Janet Kenny for Law Enforcement Liaison, SHTSS, MDT
John Althof, Rail Highway Safety, Traffic & Safety (T&S) Engineering, MDT
Mark Keeffe, Data Analyst, SHTSS, MDT
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Manager, MDT
Patricia Burke, Safety Engineer, T&S, Engineering, MDT
Shari Graham, EMS Systems Manager- Department of Public Health & Human Services
Sheila Cozzie, SOAR/Teen/Motorcycle Program Manager, SHTSS, MDT
Matt Ulberg, Director, Montana Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP), MSU
Sarah Garcia, State Programs/Grant Specialist, FMCSA
Stan Brelin, Traffic Operations, MDT

>>> Emerging concern relating to S2.1 Continued implementation of Speed Enforcement Campaigns reported by Eric Belford following the meeting:

The FMCSA has a mandated CDL driver training certification program. For the DMV to implement this program there had to be a legislative bill allowing the program. The bill failed placing Montana out of compliance with the federal CDL program requirements effective February 2022. There are ongoing discussions between the Governor's office and the FMCSA regarding a possible extension. <<<

Strategy Updates

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)

- 2022 Preliminary: 240 Fatalities (20% increase). Identified numerous sites on non-MDT routes the past few years. Working w/ city, county, tribal entities for safety improvement projects.

S1.2 Continue to support and implement Roadway Departure Plan

- Roadway Departure Plan was updated in 2020. Plan is incorporated in HSIP program and the core MDT projects including rehabilitation, resurfacing and reconstruction projects.

S1.3 Work Zone Technology to reduce conflicts, roadway departure and rear-end crashes

- Incorporated work zone technologies & Smart Signs countermeasure as a standard operating procedure.

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

S2.1 Continued implementation of Speed Enforcement Campaigns

Implementation of STEP program.

Waiting Annual Report. End of year mobilization is still being compiled.

- 35 Law enforcement agencies received STEP grants.
- Butte-Silver Bow law enforcement will be conducting STEP patrols for St Patrick's Day. Mini grants are being submitted for summer season.

MCS is leveraging ITD grant to install more ramp screening technology. This technology includes seatbelt cameras, tire anomaly systems, DOT cameras and license plate cameras. Included in the information the officer receives in the weigh station is the carrier's safety information and whether the carrier is on a federal out-of-service order.

Reduction in speed-related citations. Waiting Annual Report.

- Speeding citation &/or random specials continue.
- 2021 TACT (Ticketing Aggressive Cars & Trucks): 24 Drug/43 Alcohol

S2.2 Continue to support and implement Intersection Safety Plan

Reduction in number and severity of intersection-related crashes.

- Term Consultant is assisting to analyze several intersections for safety improvements.

S2.3 Continue to implement and consider speed management methodologies appropriate for Montana.

Reduction of speed related crashes on roadways.

- Develop a website to track speed studies that have been requested to provide the status for the public.

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

S3.1 AARP Driver Skills Training refresher course covers current rules of the road and defensive driving techniques.

Implement driver Skills training. AARP's in-person classroom Driver Safety Program remained shut down since 2021.

S3.2 Sustain and continue to provide Share the Road and No-Zone training focusing on operating around large vehicles.

2022 trainings/ classes: Waiting confirmation of final numbers.

S3.3 Continue to sustain and support the implementation of MT D.R.I.V.E skills training

Number of classes/ successful participants: Waiting confirmation of final numbers.

S3.4 Continue to sustain and support implementation of the OPI Teen Drivers Education.

Number of successful participants, 2020-2021: Waiting confirmation of final numbers.

S3.5 Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS) Training

Successful Participants (2021):

- BRC Locations: Bozeman, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, MAFB, Missoula, Sidney, Stevensville = 627 successful participants.
- BRC2 Locations: MAFB, Missoula = 16 successful participants.
- ARC Locations: Helena, MAFB, & Missoula = 34 successful participants.

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

Outreach & Educational events.

- Still looking for a state coordinator. A consultant, Amplified Digital has been contracted to conduct geofencing and social media rail safety messages. We've had good public outreach through this.

S3.7 Continue to provide and enhance traffic safety information for bicyclist and pedestrians and other non-motorized transportation system users.

Program implementation.

- Jan 2022: 2022 Montana Bicycle data map is under final review.

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. Section 130 program funds are eligible for projects at all public crossings including roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian paths.

IIJA bill revised section and provides for 100% funded. Elimination of required 50% for protected devices.

Increased incentive funding for crossing consolidation/closure of railroad crossings. Funds can be utilized for trespassing issues at crossings, no funding increase associated with this.

Implementation of annual program./Number of projects:

- MDT continues to implement the Railway-Highway Crossing program on an annual basis.

S4.2 Continue to implement and enhance proven countermeasures such as, but not limited to improving sight distance at intersections and availability of gaps in traffic and assist drivers in judging gaps; access management; traffic signalization, control, operational, and other infrastructure improvements for all transportation system users.

Implementation of annual program in identifying safety issues.

- Operations has started an ICE program to determine most appropriate traffic control needed.

S4.3 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to mitigate uncontrolled intersection collisions.

Evaluation of reduction of Collisions at the 12 temporary traffic circles.

- Implemented. Personal experience. Completed.

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 Enhance and upgrade MDT's Safety Information Management System (SIMS) crash database. Continue to identify, analyze and track HSIP projects that reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries.

- Update of MDT's Safety Information Management System (SIMS) crash database continues.

S5.2 Create crash database dashboards for groups including CHSP, Planning Division, etc. This could include other agencies such as MHP (focusing enforcement efforts) and DPHHS (focusing educational efforts).

Develop & rollout of crash data dashboards to provide consistent data for all stakeholders and partners.

- In dashboard development stage. Currently working with Environmental Services on both the visual dashboard and charted data.

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.

- Ongoing implementation of Annual Campaigns.

S6.2 Continue to support the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) high visibility enforcement STEP and SETT programs with crash maps for distribution to Montana Highway Patrol Districts focusing on speeding, impaired driving, unrestrained vehicle occupants, and distraction in addition to other risky driving behaviors.

Update annual maps.

- Update still in progress.

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

S7.1 Conduct low volume rural roads research project to prioritize and identify areas of need.

Completion of research project and implementation of finds, if appropriate.

- Study based on identifying local and low volume roads safety improvements. Research project finalized in Dec 2021. Research finding to be reviewed for implementation consideration.

S7.3 Proposed: Research safety evaluation of sinusoidal centerline rumble strips.

Evaluation of sinusoidal centerline rumble strips.

- Next Step: Penn University contracted to do research. Projects to be underway by summer 2022.

2022 Meeting Schedule

Roadway Departure & Intersection-related Crashes Meetings

Thursday, April 14, 10:30- noon

Thursday, August 18, 10:30- noon

Thursday, November 10, 10:30- noon