

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

Thursday, November 17, 2022
10:30 a.m.- noon



Attendees:

Marcee Allen, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
John Althof, Rail Highway Safety, Traffic & Safety (T&S) Engineering, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Stan Brelin, Traffic Operations, T&S Engineering, MDT
Patricia Burke, Safety Engineer, T&S Engineering, MDT
Shelby Clark, Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, MDT
Sarah Garcia, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Mark Keeffe, Data Analyst, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT
Damian Krings, Road Design Engineer, MDT
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP manager, MDT
Sheila Ludlow, Multimodal Planning & Communications Bureau, MDT
Gabe Priebe, Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau Chief, MDT

Meeting Purpose – Strategy Activity Updates and Next Steps

Annual Transportation Safety / Executive Leadership Team Meeting Debrief

Flow of meeting was well planned. Great presentations of technical experts that spoke and representation of panel members that attended.

Updates and Recommendations include:

- Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is moving forward to educate youth on the use of marijuana. Drivers' education Module 6 is being developed and is focusing on the Deadly Deeds. A new program, Montana DRIVE CDL is being rolled out.
- Include MT lane filtering laws as a part of motorcycle safety awareness. Educating the public on the traffic movement/ law needs to be ramped up for the coming year.
- Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) noted the eight exam stations across the state that feature safety videos. The screens can be split 3 ways and a portion of the screen can be set up to rotate through. The new "It's Not Too Late" media previewed at the annual meeting would be good to add to line up.
- Risky driving, speeding, unbuckled and distracted were noted by those in attendance as a major concern. MHP noted an interest about unbuckled nighttime fatality data.
- Department of Labor & Industry (DLI): Work Zone safety and high rates of speeds. Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) does focus on work zone enforcement and noted that statewide coverage is limited by lack of staffing. MHP has requested additional troopers.
- Additionally Move Over MT and others are looking at updating Montana Code to ensure all five disciplines are included (emergency response, law enforcement, fire & rescue, tow operators, and highway workers).
- EMS needs to be recognized as an essential service. Discussion included revisiting the joint report by Montana Hospital Association & DPHHS, *Emergency Medical Services in Montana: Crisis on the Horizon*, to see about revisiting in the next Legislative session.

Strategy Updates

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

- HSIP list of projects are developed with consideration of network needs, requests, and systemic approach to implement safety countermeasures.
- Roadway Departure Plan continues to be used and is standard practice and is incorporated in core MDT projects.

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

- Continue implementation of Speed Enforcement Campaigns in FFY2022 included:
 - The Highway Safety Plan (HSP) documents 1,314 speeding citations during the FFY 2021 national mobilizations; and 3,721 speeding citations during FY2021 by STEP participants. Citations will be included in the FFY22 Annual Report.
- Continue to support and implement intersection safety plan.
 - The T&S staff are reviewing several potential intersections for safety improvements which Operations will move forward, most being in urban areas.
 - Following the meeting the FFY2022 Non-motorized-related CN/CE expenditures were reported at ~ \$4.6 million
- Continue to consider speed management
 - Added various location and archived speed limit maps and historical data to the Mapped Speed Studies GIS map [. \(mt.gov\) https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/roads/speed-limits.aspx](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/roads/speed-limits.aspx)
 - Planning to conduct pilot variable speed limits projects at two different locations.

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

- AARP -2022 Training numbers will not be available until after the first part of 2023.
 - MMRS- 95 classes were conducted in 2022. 935 registrations with 860 showed up for training and 643 successfully completed the training course. Significant number of no shows and dropouts this year. MMRS will be implementing a text reminder to be sent two weeks in advance of registered training.
 - MT DRIVE In 2020, 450 adults and 36 teens took Montana DRIVE workshops. It is noted that over 17,000 people have attended over the course of the last 43 years.
 - Drivers Ed School Year 2022-23 final drivers' education numbers will be available in the coming year.
 - Operation Lifesaver Inc (OLI) - Participated in National Rail Safety Week, September 19-25, 2022, shared safety messaging and safety media focused on parking when hunting and rail trespassing. Missoula District Montana Highway Patrol featured in Missoulian article speaking about rail safety. Geo fencing was used during Brawl of the Wild, November 19. Geofencing is a technology that defines a virtual boundary around a real-world geographical area. In doing so, a radius of interest is established that can trigger an action in a geo-enabled phone or other portable electronic device.
 - Bicyclist & Pedestrian safety educational messaging is being updated and developed and includes awareness of being visible. Coordinating an ADA training course in December- one in Helena (12/7) and one in Billings (12/8) and coordinating an on-line bicycle design training workshop for 2023.
- Strategy 4: Reduce and mitigate intersection crashes through data-driven problem identification and the use of best practices.
 - Railroad Crossing program continues to consider elimination of hazards and addressing trespasser issues.
 - The HSIP continues to implement proven safety countermeasures and identify safety program opportunities and work with Operations to identify projects. Operations is working with Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) guidance to help prioritize projects. Moving forward with advancing alternative safety intersections like, Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) and Restricted Crossing U-turn (RCUT).
 - 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
 - Cloud based Numetrics used for querying crash data and as an analysis tool. Discussions regarding broader crash data access with management are ongoing

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

- Operation Safe Driver campaign 3 was conducted on HWY 212 from I-90 to Ashton on 11/1 & 2/22. The Montana Department of Transportation/Motor Carrier Services with the Montana Highway Patrol, Bureau of Indian Affairs, & Big Horn County Sheriff completed an Operation Safe Driver," a CVSA (Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance) and FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) special operation associated with MCSAP. Montana's "Safe Driver" special operation is an innovative, proactive, and collaborative effort between the agencies and MCSAP inspection teams. This was our third event as planned this year, in our state. Montana utilized these resources to improve highway safety for the entire motoring public. These operations have ability to impact many drivers through commercial motor vehicle inspections and traffic enforcement of vehicle operating around the test CMV.

MCS inspection teams working on HWY 212 in Crow & Cheyenne Indian Reservations. Motor Carrier Services Enforcement officers completed 13 inspections noting 2 CMV drivers out of Service violations. In addition to our commercial motor vehicle inspections MCS and MHP, BIA & County Officers completed traffic enforcement utilizing a CMV operating in the corridor with an MHP officer in the CMV calling out traffic violations. This 2-day event resulted 62 vehicle stops, with a total of 51 warnings and 47 Notices to appear written.

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

- Research effectiveness of highway safety public education at Montana Motor Vehicle Division and Vehicle Registration by streaming safety videos. Study is nearing completion (project end date is April 30, 2023) and WTI did receive approval to present at TRB.

2023 Meeting Schedule- Quarterly schedule

Group discussed quarterly emphasis area progress update meetings and overall program updates of the various agencies.

Pam volunteered to contact partners within other agencies about providing a one-hour virtual update on program safety initiatives and efforts to reduce serious crashes. Virtual meeting notice will be provided to emphasis area team and other safety partners.

- Outlook meeting notices to be sent out by Pam
- Safety program webinars to be scheduled and notice provided in advance by Pam

Meeting Adjourned