

**CHSP Roadway Departure & Intersection Crashes
Emphasis Area
Virtual Meeting**
Thursday, December 3, 2020,



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
Sheila Cozzie, SOAR/ Teens/ Motorcycle Safety Coordinator, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT
David Gray, Missoula MPO Transportation
Bruce Holmes, Administrator, Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA)
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
Jeremy Wilde, Statewide Traffic Control Engineer, Engineering, MDT

Meeting Purpose: Confirm strategy opportunity leads to provide status updates and report progress on workplan implementation.

Chair Patricia Burke opened the virtual meeting with a welcome and self-introduction of participants.

Confirm Strategy Opportunity Leaders

Opportunity leads discussed were confirmed and noted in workplan.

- *Pam Langve-Davis will follow up with Strategy 3 safety program managers not in attendance to confirm their continued participation with the CHSP emphasis area team.*
- *John Althof will extend an invitation to the Operation Lifesaver railroad safety coordinator and provide contact information.*

Progress Updates

Strategy 1, Opportunity 1 (S1.1): Continue to Implement the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

- Annual HSIP projects are currently under design. Primarily Intersection, roadway departure, and pedestrian related projects.

S1.2: Continue to support and implement Roadway Departure Plan

- RWD Plan updated w/ recent crash data. Currently in quality check process.
- Work Zone Technology & Smart Signals are being integrated into work zones to reduce rear end crashes at traffic signals. Smart signals detect traffic and are tied to a que warning system. Smart arrow boards are being used to inform the traveling public of lane closures.

S2.1 Continued implementation of Speed Enforcement Campaigns

- COVID has cut enforcement activities. Contacts limited to those only necessary. Random specials are being conducted.

S2.2 Continue to support and implement Intersection Safety Plan

- More safety projects are planned, systemic or spot improvements. Consultant is reviewing select intersections for recommendations

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

- Speed limit investigations continue.

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

- OLS have increased social media this past quarter in NE Montana because of recent incidents.

S4.1 Implement the Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program.

- Three separate RR projects have moved through with larger scale railroad safety improvements at public railroad crossings (one project each in the Missoula, Billings, & Glendive Districts).

S4.2 Continue to implement and enhance proven safety countermeasures.

- Implementation of proven safety countermeasures are ongoing.
- David Gray, Missoula noted that the City of Missoula/TSAC is looking to mitigate uncontrolled intersection collisions resulting from sight distance issues. Speed reduction strategy being considered is Twenty (20 mph) on residential streets. David Gray will provide updates.

S5.1 Enhance and upgrade MDT's Safety Information Management System (SIMS) crash database.

- Work is in progress to update the crash data base. Contract is expected in late December/early 2021.

S5.2 Create crash database dashboards for groups including CHSP, Planning Division, etc.

- New crash data base will include set up of crash factor related and fatality dashboards to align with safety program goals.

S6.1 Continue to conduct and implement Operation Safe Driver campaigns.

- COVID has cut enforcement activities. Contacts limited to those only necessary. Random specials are being conducted.

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.

- Chad to check availability of MHP District crash maps.

Legislative Session 2021

- Enable Motor Carriers Enforcement officers the authority to enforce use of chains. Motor Carriers Enforcement Officers currently do not have the authority to enforce the use of chains. This is a safety issue and MHP has limited manpower. This was a concern during the 2019 Legislative Session but did not move forward.
- Revision of bicycling laws to require the use of a back mounted red light at night instead of a reflector.

Agenda Item(s) -Standing items

- Status Updates
- Legislative Session 2021

Next meeting

- **Third Thursday of the month from 10:30 – noon, on Jan 21, 2021**

Meeting Adjourned.

Reference: Roadway Departure & Intersection Related Emphasis Area Workplan

https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020_SEP_RDIC_EA_Workplan_Final.pdf