

Authority and basis for the operation of the Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force: The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is the guiding authority on implementing highway safety strategies statewide to reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes. The purpose of the ELT is to provide direction on the implementation of Montana’s Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan.

Outlined in Montana Code Annotated 61-2-103, The Governor is responsible for the administration of the highway traffic safety program. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Director is the official appointed by the Governor of the State of Montana, to implement and administer the state’s Highway Traffic Safety Program as provided in 23 U.S.C. 402, and 23 U.S.C. 405. The Director of MDT is Montana’s Governor Representative for Highway Safety. The ELT is Chaired by the Director of MDT.

The role of the Executive Leadership Team members is as follows:

Provide leadership and collaboration addressing statewide highway safety needs.

- Prioritize and institutionalize Vision Zero across agencies.
- Commit resources to implement statewide highway safety initiatives.
- Identify and remove barriers within and between agencies to achieve Vision Zero.
- Incorporate common Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) strategies and initiatives into agency plans and policies.
- Delegate appropriate staff to participate actively in the implementation of strategies and safety efforts.
- Serve as Montana’s Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force as required by 23 CFR 1300.23

Process for developing Montana’s Impaired Driving Strategic Plan:

The Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Work Plan of Montana’s Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan was approved by the ELT on June 27, 2023

The Executive Leadership Team shall consist of the following officials:

- 1)Governor Greg Gianforte, Governor of Montana
- 2)Malcolm “Mack” Long, Director, Montana Department of Transportation & Governor’s Highway Safety representative
- 3)Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Department of Justice
- 4)Senator Barry Usher
- 5)Misty Kuhl, Director, Office of Indian Affairs
- 6)Steve Lavin, Colonel, Montana Highway Patrol
- 7)Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services
- 8)Brian Gootkin, Director, Department of Corrections
- 9)Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator, Office of the Court Administrator Office
- 10)Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana County Attorney Association
- 11)Captain Scott Van Dyken, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
- 12)Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction
- 13)Brendan Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue
- 14)Eric Bryson, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties
- 15)Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns
- 16)John Iverson, Government Affairs Director, Montana Taverns Association
- 17)Honorable Judge Knisely, 13th Judicial District Court
- 18)Laurie Esau, Director, Department of Labor and Industry

Emphasis Area: Impaired Driving

Champion/Co-Champion: Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT

Objectives:

Strategy 1 - Deterrence and Enforcement

Opportunity	Status	Lead(s)	Measurement of Success
S1.1 Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and Strategic Enforcement Traffic Team (SETT) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts.	State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) provides funding for HVE campaigns implemented by law enforcement. Participating agencies provide national mobilization & HVE at local at-risk events. Funding is a competitive grant process requiring a work plan and regular reporting. High Visibility Enforcement is provided on various levels. Through the Montana Highway Patrol, a multiple trooper roving patrol called Strategic Enforcement Traffic Team (SETT). Both the STEP and SETT concentrate on mobilization periods and during high-risk events.	SHTSS-MDT, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) & Local Law Enforcement (LE).	LE hours supported by grant dollars:
S1.2 Continue to support Tribal law enforcement Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts	State Highway Traffic Safety Section(SHTSS) provides funding for HVE efforts implemented by law enforcement. Participate in the Holiday Mobilization, Click-it-or-Ticket Mobilization, Labor Day Mobilization and two other high-risk events. Each agency will conduct sustained enforcement as necessary and as funding allows. These efforts will assist to reduce Native American fatalities by promoting seat belt use and discourage impaired driving.	Tribal LE agencies, SHTSS-MDT	LE hours supported by grant dollars:
S1.3 Continue to support the Law Enforcement Liaison program	SHTSS-MDT has divided the state into four regions to include state, county, tribal and city LE agencies. The liaisons are responsible for increasing productivity of the STEP program and work towards a collaborative "One Team" approach to eliminate impaired driving. The liaisons work to involve STEP participants and non-STEP participants in local high visibility events to increase the productivity of the STEP program. MDT continues to support LEL requirement and expansion for increased coordinated events.	SHTSS-MDT, Law Enforcement Liaison Contractor	Efforts for LEL's Recruitment of rural LE agencies & increased coordinated events.
S1.4 Continue to support and promote Law Enforcement Mini-Grant Program	Projects funded by NHTSA , managed by SHTSS. Grant funding specific to MT safety funding. Funding for non STEP- participating agencies for local high visibility enforcement at specific events. Applications are accepted throughout the year.	State & Local Law Enforcement (LE)- Department of Justice (DOJ)& SHTSS-MDT	Number of funded mini-grants:
S1.5 Continue to support and maintain the Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO)	TRSO coordinates & manages the Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training programs for Montana. Training enhances the skills & expertise of LEOs when conducting traffic stops and Enforcement. TSRO serves as a liaison between MHP and local and tribal LE agencies, prosecutors, judges and the public. TSRO efforts continue throughout the state providing SFST, ARIDE and DRE training.	MHP-DOJ & SHTSS-MDT	Training provided:
S1.6 Sustain and support DUI Police Traffic Safety Pilot Program	This NHTSA funded project managed by SHTSS-MDT. Funds activities focused specifically on DUI enforcement and education There is a secondary focus on occupant protection, speeding and enforcement of the city's distracted driving (cell phone) ordinance. Focused on reducing impaired driving and removing impaired drivers for roadways. Provides a more accurate picture of here in Helena. MDT continues to support the Helena Police Departments for a DUI Police Traffic Safety Program.		Number of hours provided in enforcement and educational efforts. Secondary are number of warnings, citations, etc.

Strategy 2- Prevention and Education			
Opportunity	Status	Lead(s)	
S2.1 Support activities that include Prevention Specialist community outreach and education events and evidenced-based programs	Focus areas include school-based programs, traffic education programs and other community-based prevention programs. Collaborative efforts are encouraged with local Prevention Specialist across the state with Local DUI Task Forces. Many Prevention Specialist work closely with County DUITF's. Status 2/2/2022: Prevention Specialist map https://dphhs.mt.gov/AMDD/substanceabuse/PreventionRegionallInfo	Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division (BHDD)/, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)	Type of educational programs provided.
S2.2. Support Injury Prevention and Trauma Coordinators in local-area hospitals with community outreach and education events and programs	Focus areas include school-based programs, traffic safety education programs, traumatic brain injury prevention and other community-based prevention/intervention programs. Transportation Safety forums are being planned. Working towards re-engaging injury prevention coalition.	Montana Injury Prevention Program (MIPP), EMS& TS, DPHHS	Type of educational programs provided.
S2.3 Sustain and expand local DUI Task Forces	SHTSS-MDT facilitates statewide training for task forces (TF) and serves as a conduit for TF. The MDT Director is the Governor's representative for highway traffic safety reviews and approves county annual TF plans. Training provides traffic safety information and promotes networking and opportunities for collaboration. There are 36 County DUITF's representing 39 Counties.	Counties, SHTSS-MDT	Number of County DUITF's:
S2.4 Sustain and support Northern Tribes Tribal DUI Task Force	The Northern Tribes DUI TF was formed by tribal reservation communities with membership consisting of a wide variety of traffic safety partners including Tribal Council members, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, transportation, health, injury prevention agencies, and tribal community colleges. The TF includes established by-laws, elected officers, and a strategic plan. NHTSA funding assists in conducting quarterly work meetings. MDT continues to provide support to the Northern Tribes DUITF.	MT Tribal Communities, schools, SHTSS-MDT	Continued education of tribal reservation communities of the risks associated with impaired driving.
S2.5 Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program focusing on impaired driving	Continue to partner with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) on teen peer-to-peer traffic safety program and other teen traffic safety opportunities to develop campaigns and conduct educational outreach focusing on dangers of underage drinking and impaired driving for teens and young adults, including various outreach and media outlets.	Sheila Cozzie SHTSS-MDT, FCCLA, and other traffic safety partners	Program Implementation.
S2.6 Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads - SOAR - Tribal community traffic safety program	A focus of the SOAR program is to promote safe driving practices including the educational outreach on the dangers of impaired driving and underage drinking within tribal reservation communities. SHTSS-MDT manages the NHTSA funding and partners with tribal agency SOAR coordinators to provide tribal specific and relevant safety messaging.	SOAR Coordinators, tribal communities, SHTSS-MDT	Program Implementation.
S2.7 Sustain and support efforts to reduce the over-service of alcohol and preventing underage drinking and driving by supporting mandatory alcohol sales and service training.	Program purpose is to expand the awareness & support of continued mandatory alcohol sales and service training, including special events training and state permitting of alcohol servers and sellers. Research and implement methods for tracking participation and compliance.	Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD)- Department of Revenue (DOR), Community Partners	Number of servers trained/recertified:
2.8 Promote the expansion of Transportation Alternatives to Reduce Impaired Driving	Alternative transportation describes the method that people can use to get from to and from places when drinking without having to drive. Ride service options may include, but is not limited to: for profit and non-profit safe ride options such as taxies, shuttles, buses, personal vehicles, tow trucks, etc.	County DUITF's, state/local tavern associations, local businesses.	Number of Counties that have transportation alternative programs in place.

Strategy 3- Criminal Justice System			
Opportunity	Status	Lead(s)	
S3.1 Support stronger impaired driving laws.	During the 2023 Session there were a number of bill proposals introduced that impacted impaired driving. One example of passed legislation was Senate Bill 13, DUI Laws related to admissible tests for presence of drugs.	Various traffic safety partners and public safety advocates	Introduced and Passed Impaired Driving Legislation:
S3.2 Continue to support implementation and expansion of the Statewide 24/7 Sobriety and Drug Monitoring Program and other DUI Offender monitoring programs.	SHTSS - MDT provides NHTSA funds to the Montana Highway Patrol to support a full Time 24/7 Coordinator. The 24/7 sobriety monitoring program focus is to prevent repeat offenses and uses primary testing methodologies for the presence of alcohol and dangerous drugs.	Attorney General (AG)-DOJ, MHP 24/7 coordinator & SHTSS-MDT	Number of Counties participating:
S3.3 Sustain and support the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP)	SHTSS-MDT contracts with the AG office for the TSRP to conduct training on DUI adjudication. Training enhances consistent identification, arrest, prosecution and sentencing of DUI offenses. MDT continues to collaborate with the DOJ in providing support for a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor.	Attorney General -DOJ, SHTSS-MDT	Training completed:
S3.4 Sustain and support the Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL)	MDT-SHTSS continues to have a strong relationship with the Regional JOL, Judge Mary Jane Knisely.	Regional JOL, Region 10 of NHTSA	Implementation of a Regional Judicial Outreach Liaison
S3.5 Support increase of crime lab resources to improve-process of DUI test samples.	Up-to-date, technical crime lab resources are needed to keep abreast of ever changing chemical composition of alcohol and drugs- both over the counter and illicit. Successful program implementation is dependent on continued education and training of lab technicians and improved crime lab capacity and speed, including the number of toxicologists and equipment (such as intoxilizers for Breath Test program) to process DUI test samples and to measure other drugs. The FSD will continue to evaluate needs, especially as Recreational Marijuana is being rolled out.	Forensic Science Division (FSD)-DOJ, SHTSS-MDT	Equipment purchased or sustained:
S3.6 Continue to sustain and expand DUI Courts and Treatment Court Training for DUI Offenders	Montana has 41 Treatment Courts in Montana. Seven of those are DUI Courts. MDT-SHTSS provides direct support for 5 of the 7 DUI Courts. Additionally, the National Center for DWI Courts continues to provide training in Montana to Treatment Court Teams. Support of training opportunities are offered to Treatment Courts for DUI Offenders.	Judge Knisley, Judicial Courts, SHTSS-MDT	Number of DUI Courts: Number of Treatment Courts:
S3.7 Continue to support and expand Tribal DUI Courts	NHTSA funding is managed by SHTSS-MDT and covers travel costs for participants (judges, DUI coordinator, prosecutor, defense council, etc.) to attend DUI court training. The training covers the 10 Guiding Principles of the DUI Court Model, and includes an on-site visit to a DUI Court Academy.	Tribal Courts, SHTSS-MDT	Sustain & expand Tribal DUI Courts.
S3.8 Support license sanctions for DUI Offenders following (Montana Code Annotated. Now referenced as MCA 61.8.10 Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol & Drugs, Effective January 1, 2022	When a Montana driver is convicted of a DUI, the driver license or privilege to drive is suspended or revoked for a statutorily mandated duration. A commercial driver faces additional penalties. MVD continues to administer/track driver's licenses that are sanctioned-codification. MCA 61.8.10 Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol & Drugs, Effective January 1, 2022	MVD-DOJ	Number of licenses with administrative action

S3.9 Continue to support alcohol breath testing by Motor Carrier Services (MCS) officers with reasonable suspicion or other competent evidence that a CDL operator may be driving impaired.	Montana's commercial motor vehicle (CMV) enforcement is funded by the MCSAP grant. MCS officers conduct inspections utilizing NETS to verify driver Credentials, CDL classification, for vehicle driven, alcohol usage, and driver and vehicle out-of-service status among other responsibilities. MCS officers actively participate in continuing impaired driving education and testing and are recertified on an annual basis on alcohol detection and testing. Training blocks at annual statewide MCS Officer conference & includes updates on the latest trends, methods of concealment & interview techniques for both drugs and alcohol. MCS has 6 officers: SFST Senior Operator trained, ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) and Drug Interdiction Training.	Motor Carrier Services (MCS) -MDT, MVD-DOJ	Number of citations issued for impairment or possession of alcohol or drugs while operating a CMV.
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Strategy 4 - Communication Program	
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Opportunity	Status	Lead(s)	
S4.1 Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors regarding impaired driving.	The task of improving the culture of safety begins with understanding the behaviors and beliefs of specific high risk groups regarding impaired driving. Developing relevant, impactful safety messaging is the first step in changing the behavior and beliefs of these specific high risk groups. Implementation of research findings and best practices, as appropriate to Montana should include a measure to evaluate success. New concepts for safety messaging are reviewed with potential considerations i.e., negative impacts of psychological reactance to identify positive changes. MDT media contractor is developing a holistic approach to media through a variety of mechanisms.	SHTSS- MDT, Media contractor, NHTSA and other traffic safety partners	Implement research findings and best practices and evaluation, as appropriate.
S4.2 Participate and support of National Mobilization Media Campaigns aimed at preventing impaired driving.	SHTSS-MDT continues to partner with NHTSA and media contractor in promoting State Highway Traffic Safety messaging statewide during mobilization periods. MDT continues to engage and collaborate with NHTSA on National Mobilization campaigns. MDT works with state and local law enforcement partners in collaborating efforts with mobilizations.	MHP, local LE , MSPOA, SHTSS-MDT	Implement annual mobilizations media campaigns:
S4.3 Monitor the impact of marijuana legalization on roadway crashes and countermeasures in Montana and peer states.	Research and report the presence of THC increase of drivers on the road, arrests of , and crash-involved drivers; THC-positive drivers not necessarily impaired; and fatal crashes involving marijuana as guidance for issues for Montana to consider addressing. MDT is evaluating the impact on impaired driving with recreational marijuana. Washington State publishes annual reports that demonstrates impact from recreational use. Members of the ID EA has discussed preliminary base numbers related to THC in driver's involved in fatalities. This may serve as a baseline as recreational marijuana continues to be implemented.	FSD-DOJ, Research-MDT, Governors Highway Safety Administration (GHSA), SHTSS-MDT	Findings of impacts in Montana and other states:

Strategy 5 - Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse: Screening, Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation	
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Opportunity	Status	Lead(s)	
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S5.1 Support ACT (Assessment, Course and Treatment) for DUI Offenders	Continued expansion of ACT Providers throughout the state that provides easier access and competition on cost of ACT. To better focus on number of DUI Offenders served BHDD would like to work with Office of Court Administrator (OCA) and the State Highway Traffic Safety Section.	BHDD-DPHHS, OCA, SHTSS-MDT	Accurate Number of DUI Offenders served.
S5.2 Expand Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in healthcare and into other settings throughout Montana.	As part of Medicaid Expansion, alcohol screening questions have been added to a Health Risk Assessment (HRA), which is given to all Medicaid members during an outpatient visit to their healthcare provider. The assessment is of primary chronic diseases & offers healthcare providers an opportunity to follow-up with a brief intervention using motivational interviewing to promote behavior change with risky drinking behaviors.	BHDD-DPHHS	
Strategy 6- Program Evaluation and Data			
Opportunity			
Status			
Lead(s)			
S6.1 Support a comprehensive picture of impaired driving data, which may include, but is not limited to: Crash, Citation, Toxicology, Conviction, Motor Vehicle and DUI Offender monitoring data.	Develop a resource material(s) to align data sets to inform traffic safety partners, advocates, CHSP Advisory Committee and Executive Leadership Team, and the general public of the impaired driving safety issues, economic threats, and changes needed to reduce impaired driving fatalities and suspected serious injuries.	Motor Vehicle Division (MVD)-DOJ, MT Board of Crime Control (BoCC), FSD-DOJ, MHP-DOJ, OCA, SHTSS-MDT, and other traffic safety partners	Enhance data sets to inform the approach to stronger laws and penalties, arrest rates and repeat offenders.