



# *Promoting Safer People Through the NHTSA Programs & Grant Opportunities*

Tammy Ross, Bureau Chief  
Transit, Safety & Planning, MDT

Kevin Dusko, State Highway Safety Section  
Supervisor, MDT

2024 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting  
October 16-17, 2024



**ENGAGE**

# State Traffic Highway Safety Section Staff

- State Highway Traffic Safety Section – Kevin Dusko, Supervisor
- Impaired Driving Programs – Alison Malensek [amalensek@mt.gov](mailto:amalensek@mt.gov)
- Law Enforcement/ EMS Grant Programs – Spencer Harris [sharris@mt.gov](mailto:sharris@mt.gov)
- Safe On All Roads – Teen Safety – Motorcycle Safety Programs  
Sheila Cozzie [scozzie@mt.gov](mailto:scozzie@mt.gov)
- Grants Accountant - Bill Tuck [wtuck@mt.gov](mailto:wtuck@mt.gov)
- Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Analyst – Brooklyn Johns-Blassic  
[bjohnsblastic@mt.gov](mailto:bjohnsblastic@mt.gov)
- Occupant Protection – Vacant
- Data and Traffic Records Program - Vacant

# Safe System Approach



- A Safe System Approach incorporates the following principles:
- Death and Serious Injuries are Unacceptable
  - A Safe System Approach prioritizes the elimination of crashes that result in death and serious injuries.
- Humans Make Mistakes
  - People will inevitably make mistakes and decisions that can lead or contribute to crashes, but the transportation system can be designed and operated to accommodate certain types and levels of human mistakes and avoid death and serious injuries when a crash occurs.
- Humans Are Vulnerable
  - Human bodies have physical limits for tolerating crash forces before death or serious injury occurs; therefore, it is critical to design and operate a transportation system that is human-centric and accommodates physical human vulnerabilities.
- Responsibility is Shared
  - All stakeholders—including government at all levels, industry, non-profit/advocacy, researchers, and the general public—are vital to preventing fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.
- Safety is Proactive
  - Proactive tools should be used to identify and address safety issues in the transportation system, rather than waiting for crashes to occur and reacting afterwards.
- Redundancy is Crucial
  - Reducing risks requires that all parts of the transportation system be strengthened, so that if one part fails, the other parts still protect people.

# NHTSA Grant Funding

## 402 Highway Safety Plan

- Implements strategies to reduce crash fatalities and serious injuries on Montana roadways.

## 405 B Occupant Protection

- Child Passenger Safety, seat belt enforcement, community seat belt programs, Safe On All Roads (SOAR) Native American Traffic Safety program, Mini Grants, media.

## 405 D Impaired Driving

- Impaired Driving strategies, High Visibility enforcement, 24/7 sobriety monitoring, DUI Courts, Criminal Justice Training, SOAR Native American Traffic Safety program, Mini Grants, Media

## 405 C Traffic Records, Data and IT Projects

- Improve Montana's traffic crash data, court record reporting, EMS data, and the linkages between these systems.

## 405 F Motorcycle Awareness, Rider safety training, Media

## 405 e Distracted Driving Awareness

## 23 USC 164 funding – Impaired Driving Efforts

# Annual Grant Cycle

- **January 1, 2025 – Web Grants opens for FFY2026 applications**
- **March 1, 2025 – Applications due to SHTSS through Webgrants**
- **March – April 2025 – Funding requests review and MDT Director approval projects/funding.**
- **August 1, 2025 – MDT's Annual Grant Application (AGA) and 405's due to NHTSA.**
- **September 2025- NHTSA notifies state of AGA approval status.**
- **August 2025 – Award Letters sent to applicants.**
- **October 1, 2025 – Contract Execution**
- **Mini Grants & Traffic Records** Projects may be amended into the AGA throughout the year.

## **Safer People:**

**Encourage safe, responsible driving and behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize their ability to reach their destination unharmed.**

**Safer People: High visibility Enforcement of state highway traffic safety laws**

**Safety Enforcement Traffic Team – SETT**

**Selective Traffic Enforcement – STEP**

**Law Enforcement Liaison**

**High Visibility Mini Grants – Special Events**

**Safer People – Selective Traffic Enforcement Program  
Dedicated Officers**

**Helena Police Department**

**Kalispel Police Department**

**Flathead County Sheriff Department**

**Missoula Police Department**

**Billings Police Department**



## Safer People – Selective Traffic Enforcement Program - Dedicated Officers

**\*\*Community Engagement along with High  
Visibility Enforcement\*\***

# Safer People

Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO)

# Safer People

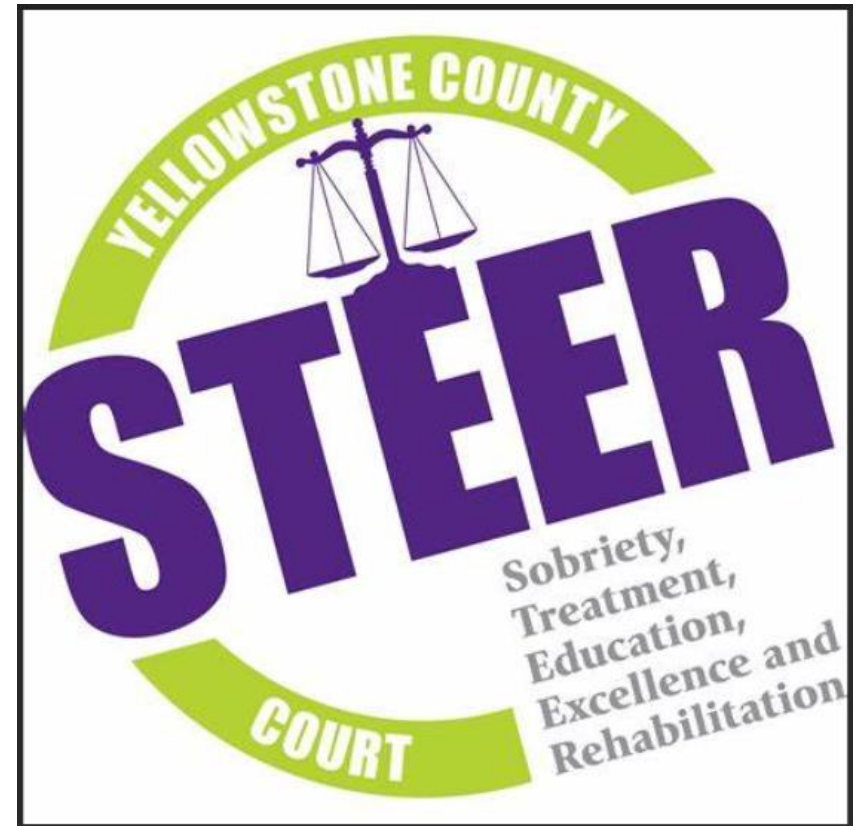
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP)

**Safer People – Selective Traffic Enforcement Program -  
Dedicated Officers**



<https://dojmt.gov/247-sobriety-program/>

# Safer People – DUI Courts



# Safer People

MONTANA'S **DUI TASK FORCES**

**preventing impaired driving and crashes**

**...AT THE COUNTY LEVEL**

# **Safer People - Occupant Protection**

## Montana Buckle Up Community Coalitions

- Tri-County (Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater) BUMT  
Helena School District, Tracie Kiesel, Coordinator
- Cascade County BUMT – Megan Brunelle, Coordinator
- Flathead County BUMT – Wendy Olson-Hansen,  
Coordinator
- Missoula County BUMT – Steve Schmidt, Coordinator



# Safer People: Occupant Protection child passenger safety - CPS

- CPS Statewide Technician Certification Program
- Annual Car Seat Purchase

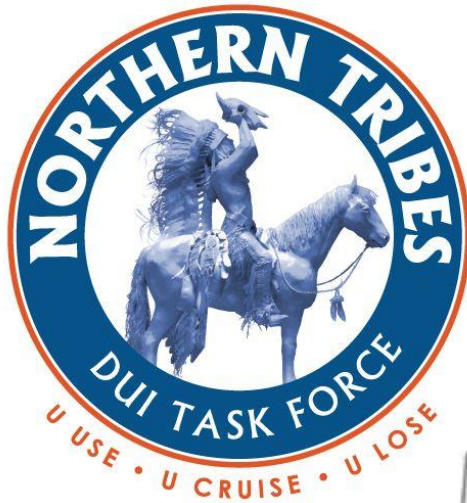


Booster seat  
installed properly?





# Safer People: SAFE On All Roads



**SOAR**  
SAFE ON ALL ROADS



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Safer People

## Teen Peer to Peer Traffic Safety



# Safer People: Motorcycle Safety



motorcycle@helenacollege.edu

**They could be  
in your blind spot.**  
Look twice for motorcyclists.

**ENGAGE**



# Safer People

Distracted Driving Awareness

## **Safer Vehicles:**

**Expand the availability of vehicle systems and features that help to prevent crashes and minimize the impact of crashes on both occupants and non-occupants.**

# Safer Vehicles: Alcohol Detection in Vehicles

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Requirement in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

# Safer Vehicles: Safety Recalls

- 50 Million Vehicles on the Road have Open Recalls
- Check to Protect
  - [CheckToProtect.org](http://CheckToProtect.org)
- NHTSA
  - <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

# Safer Vehicles: Disable Vehicles

- Interlock Devices for repeat DUI Offenders
- Car boots. Utilized in some repeat DUI Offender cases



## **Safer Speeds:**

**Promote safer speeds in all roadway environments through a combination of thoughtful, equitable, context-appropriate roadway design, appropriate speed-limit setting, targeted education, outreach campaigns, and enforcement.**

**Safer Speeds**

**High Visibility Enforcement**

**Safer Speeds:**

**Regional Coordinated Efforts Forthcoming**

# **Safer Roads:**

**Design roadway environments to mitigate human mistakes and account for injury tolerances, to encourage safer behaviors, and to facilitate safe travel by the most vulnerable users.**

# Safer Roads:

- Wrong Way Drivers
- Variable Messaging Signs
- TIMS
- Slow Down, Move Over Media
- MDT Highway Safety Engineering Bureau

# Safer Roads

## Traffic Records, Data and IT Projects

Concept: Improve Montana's traffic crash data, court record reporting, EMS data, and the linkages between these systems.

### Future Projects

- Motor Vehicle Division Driver/Vehicle Database clean-up
- Hospital Trauma Registry Upgrade
- Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
- Non-intrusive camera units
- Crime Lab – New Laboratory information management system (LIMS) for the Breath Alcohol program.

## **Post-Crash Care:**

**Enhance the survivability of crashes through expedient access to emergency medical care, while creating a safe working environment for vital first responders and preventing secondary crashes through robust traffic incident management practices**

# Post-Crash Care

## Emergency Medical Services Grant Program

EMS, Trauma, and Injury Prevention Systems



# Engage-MT

We're using awareness, education and entertainment to help Montana's drivers make smarter, safer choices. When we drive engaged, we help our communities thrive.

# Engage-MT

- Distracted Driving
- Child Passenger Safety
- Aggressive Driving
- Motorcycle Safety
- Impaired Driving
- SOAR
- Occupant protection
- <https://www.engage-mt.org/>



Questions?

Thank you!!

Tammy Ross, Bureau Chief  
Transit, Safety & Planning, MDT

[tross@mt.gov](mailto:tross@mt.gov)

Kevin Dusko, State Highway Safety  
Section Supervisor, MDT

[kedusko@mt.gov](mailto:kedusko@mt.gov)

**ENGAGE**

