

2024 Annual Transportation  
Safety Meeting

Helena, Montana  
October 16, 2024



Chief Deputy Eric Paulson,  
Gallatin County Sheriff Department

Captain Doug Samuelson,  
Montana Highway Patrol- Bozeman  
District

# Interstate 90 - Wrong Way Driver & Driving Under Influence

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Captain Doug Samuelson, Montana Highway Patrol – Bozeman Division

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Delta Colonial Hotel, Helena, Montana  
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# Interstate 90 - Wrong Way Driver & Driving Under Influence

Engineering  
Education  
Enforcement  
Emergency Response

- Between 2019 and 2022 an average of 9.5 incidents per year of wrong way driving were reported within the I-90 corridor of Gallatin County.
- In 2023, 24 incidents were reported – 152% increase! Five were contacted by law enforcement. Four of the five were arrested for DUI.
- 2024 year-to-date, 29 reports of wrong way drivers. Seven contacted by law enforcement. Five arrested for DUI.

# Partnerships

Montana Highway Patrol  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Belgrade Police Department  
Bozeman Police Department  
Manhattan Police Department  
Montana Department of Criminal Investigation  
Gallatin County DUI Task Force  
M.A.D.D. DUI Impact Panel  
Cedar Creek Integrated Health  
Southwest Montana Prevention  
Greater Impact

# Engineering



WW200

Wrong-way detection system that leverages radar technology to trigger high-intensity flashing lights.



“Vehicle detection and alert systems are up to 80% effective in stopping wrong-way drivers.”

[www.carmanah.com](http://www.carmanah.com)

# Engineering



WW200

Wrong-way detection system that leverages radar technology to trigger high-intensity flashing lights.

The Wrong Way detection and warning system installations were completed on April 25, 2024. A total of nine detection and warning systems were installed.

- West Three Forks Interchange with HWY 287, exit 274 – westbound off ramp.
- Manhattan Interchange with Churchill Rd, exit 288 – eastbound and westbound off ramps.
- Belgrade/Amsterdam Road Interchange, exit 298 – eastbound and westbound off ramps.
- North 19<sup>th</sup> Interchange, exit 305 – eastbound and westbound off ramps.
- North 7<sup>th</sup> Ave interchange, exit 306 – eastbound and westbound off ramps.

# Engineering

Prior to the receipt of any of the detection and warning system materials, Montana Department of Transportation – Traffic and Safety Division added signing and signal features to two signalized ramp intersections.

On February 29, 2024, Montana Department of Transportation added improved symbol signing and green up arrow (thru only) signals to the following signalized intersections:

- North 7th & I-90 Eastbound
- North 19th & I-90 Eastbound



# Education

## Montana Department of Criminal Investigation

Establishment and server compliance and education

## Gallatin County DUI Task Force

DUI prevention campaigns, DUI enforcement recognition ceremony

## M.A.D.D.

DUI Impact Panel

## Cedar Creek Integrated Health

Substance abuse treatment and education resource for Treatment Courts

## Southwest Montana Prevention

Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service (R.A.S.S.) training, teen/adult binge drinking education, and creating/facilitating alcohol-free events/entertainment

## Greater Impact

Operate sober living homes and treatment

# Enforcement (DUI Arrests)

## Belgrade Police Department

2022-95                      2023-142                      2024-120\*

## Bozeman Police Department

2022-360                      2023-300                      2024-179\*

## Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

2022-165                      2023-230                      2024-193\*

## Manhattan Police Department

2022-3                              2023-15                              2024-4\*

## Montana Highway Patrol

2022-362                      2023-410                      2024-340\*

\* (Through September 25, 2024)

# Emergency Response

In January 2024, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office implemented an emergency response protocol.

In the event a wrong way driver is reported on the interstate, deputies have specific tasks to safely divert oncoming traffic off the interstate, follow (parallel) the wrong way driver, and coordinate other units/partner agencies.

Gallatin County Deputy Sheriff's have trained with Montana Highway Patrol, Belgrade Police Department, Manhattan Police Department, and Bozeman Police Department on this response model and have successfully implemented it multiple times.

## Thank You and Next Steps

Thank you to the community and our partners for their commitment in addressing this public safety issue.

We ask the community to call 911 and report impaired driving and wrong way drivers.

Stakeholders will continue to evaluate engineering, education, enforcement, and our emergency response.



*Safe A Life – Don't Drink & Drive*



*Wrong Way – No Way*

**SAVE A LIFE**  
**PLEASE DON'T**  
**DRINK & DRIVE**



**WRONG WAY – NO WAY!**



