

**CHSP Roadway Departure & Intersection Crashes
Emphasis Area
Virtual Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2024**



Attendees:

Captain Dan Carroll, Enforcement Bureau- Motor Carrier Services- Butte Division, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Shelby Clark, Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, MDT
John Althof, Rail Highway Safety, Traffic & Safety (T&S) Engineering, MDT
Damian Krings, Highways Design Engineer, MDT
Curtis Weidow, Safety Program Manager, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Dwight Nelson, Traffic education Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
Patricia Burke, Chair & Safety Engineer, T&S Engineering, MDT
Sheila Ludlow, Supervisor, Integrated Transportation & Publications Section, Multimodal Planning Bureau, MDT

Meeting purpose- welcome and introduction of members and project/program of safety improvement program and related outreach to reduce roadway departure an intersection related fatalities and serious injuries.

Strategy Updates

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

- HSIP - Patricia Burke gave an update on HSIP projects – MDT currently has projects programmed out for 6+ years. Due to escalating construction costs, the current HSIP program nomination has slowed down until the backlog of projects decreases.
- Continued implementation of Roadway Departure Plan - Patricia Burke – on going, no updates

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

- Continue to support and implement the Intersection Safety Plan - Patricia Burke – on going, no updates.
- Speed management methodologies appropriate for Montana – Stan Brelin, no report, ongoing activities.

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

- Montana Operation Lifesaver (MTOL)- RR safety program- John Althof – MTOL is focusing on public service announcements. MTOL recently was awarded a \$20,000 grant from National Operation Lifesaver plus an additional \$4,000 from BNSF Railroad. This will be used to focus on education of trespassing risks and grade crossing challenges, primarily in Roosevelt County. Also, MTOL members/volunteers are completing presentations across the state to promote traffic safety.
- MT D.R.I.V.E skills training - Dwight Nelson - This is MT D.R.I.V.E.' s 45th season of operation. They are currently 85% full and anticipate meeting 100% in a few weeks. A few additional items:
 1. Teen Week is held in July and involves 4 days for 1st or 2nd year teen drivers.
 2. New Program - Native American Days will focus on a teen week open to tribal teens. With limited drivers' education opportunities on the reservations, there is a lot of interest. OPI is the lead and Sheila Cozzie (MDT) is assisting.
 3. CDL Training Program – a new expediated way for rural schools and drivers to be tested and licensed. This is the second year of the program.

- Provide & promote traffic safety education & information for vulnerable road users – Shelby Clark/ Jeremy Wilde
 1. MDT has been sending out bike maps/packets to Chambers of Commerce and Bike Shops.
 2. Outreach activities has included attending a recent St Peter’s Health “Stepping On” Program to share safety walking practices with attendees. In addition, MDT has been coordinating with upcoming racing events to promote safety, including the Governor’s Cup.

Strategy 4: Reduce and mitigate intersection crashes through data-driven problem identification and the use of best practices. Implement the Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) Program - John Althof

1. Ongoing annual program. Diagnostic field reviews were conducted last fall with road jurisdictions and the railroads. Currently working on finalizing agreements between all parties to utilize Section 130 Funds.

Strategy 5: Continue to improve the accuracy, completeness, integration, timeliness, uniformity, collection, and accessibility of safety data.

- Crash Database & Dashboards – Patricia Burke
 1. MDT and MHP currently have an interim process in place which has improved crash data accuracy and efficiency. Long term database is being pursued by MDT’s Information Service Division (ISD). No update available at this time.

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 campaigns- Captain Daniel Carroll
 1. Captain Carroll gave a brief overview of Operation Safe Driver. This is a program that MDT’s Motor Carrier Service and MHP implement to educate drivers of safe driving practices around large motor carrier trucks. The next training is planned in mid-July, most likely in Gallatin County.

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

- Safety evaluation of sinusoidal centerline rumble strips – Patricia gave an update. This research is on-going.
- Median high-tension cable rail project - Patricia gave an update that the Bozeman stretch was completed this past fall. The Butte area construction is anticipated this summer, and the Helena area is a design-build project with construction anticipated in 2025 or 2026.

Emerging Issues/ Training Opportunities/ Upcoming Meetings

- Next Meeting – Jul 25
- 2024 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting, October 16 & 17th, 2024

Road Table:

- a. Sheila Ludlow – had a question regarding the removal of “Share the Road” signing that is no longer compliant with the MUTCD. Patricia will follow up with Tyrel Murfitt in Traffic Design and he will respond to her.
- b. Damian Krings – noted that MDT continues to keep pace with the industry regarding guardrail and crash compliant testing.
- c. Curtis Weidow – had no comments.

Meeting Adjourned