

Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Meeting Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan



Date: May 2, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

MEETING GOALS

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of strategies to reduce impaired driving related fatalities and serious injuries and to evaluate progress and prepare the Impaired Driving Strategic Plan for Executive Leadership Team approval.

Attendees:

Alex Schoening, Region 10 Program Manager, NHTSA
Alison Malensek, Co-chair & Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, State Hwy Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT
Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, Department of Public Health & Human Services
Amanda Dunn, Education Specialist, Cannabis Control Division (CCD), Department of Revenue (DOR)
Barb Reiter, Jefferson County DUI Task Force Coordinator
Sgt. Brian Inman, SETT, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
Brooklyn Johns-Blassic, FARS Data Analyst, SHTSS, MDT
Captain Daniel Carroll, Enforcement Bureau, Butte District, Motor Carrier Services, MDT
Captain Douglas Samuelson, Bozeman District, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
Ed Hirsch, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, AGO
Justin Miller, STEER Yellowstone County
Kevin Dusko, Co-chair & SHTSS Supervisor, MDT
Sgt. Lacie Wickum, 24/7 Coordinator, MHP
Judge Mary Jane Knisely, 13th Judicial District
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Manager, MDT
Sgt. Ryan Janes, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO), MHP
Spencer Harris, Law Enforcement Liaison, SHTSS, MDT
Tanner Van Wyck, Educational Specialist, CDD, DOR
Trooper Blaine Heavner, MHP
Trooper Gamal Selim, MHP
Trooper Josia Wamsley, MHP
Trooper Lucas Herl, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO), MHP
Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)/ Training

New Business-

Kevin Dusko started the meeting with an overview of the Montana Statewide Impaired Driving Strategic Plan and the State's Response to the Impaired Driving Assessment Recommendations

States with a .60 or higher for the average alcohol -impaired driving fatality rate are classified as a high range state. Montana is at a .68 for 2019-2021 FARS data. Because the State of Montana has been classified as a High Range State for Alcohol- Impaired Driving fatalities additional requirements include an impaired driving work group, a statewide Impaired Driving Plan and an Executive Leadership Team that approves the Impaired Driving Plan.

The Impaired Driving Plan must follow NHTSAs Highway Safety Program guidelines on impaired driving and coincides with and is included in the state's strategic highway safety plan impaired driving emphasis area workplan states, also referenced as Montana's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan Impaired Driving Emphasis Area.

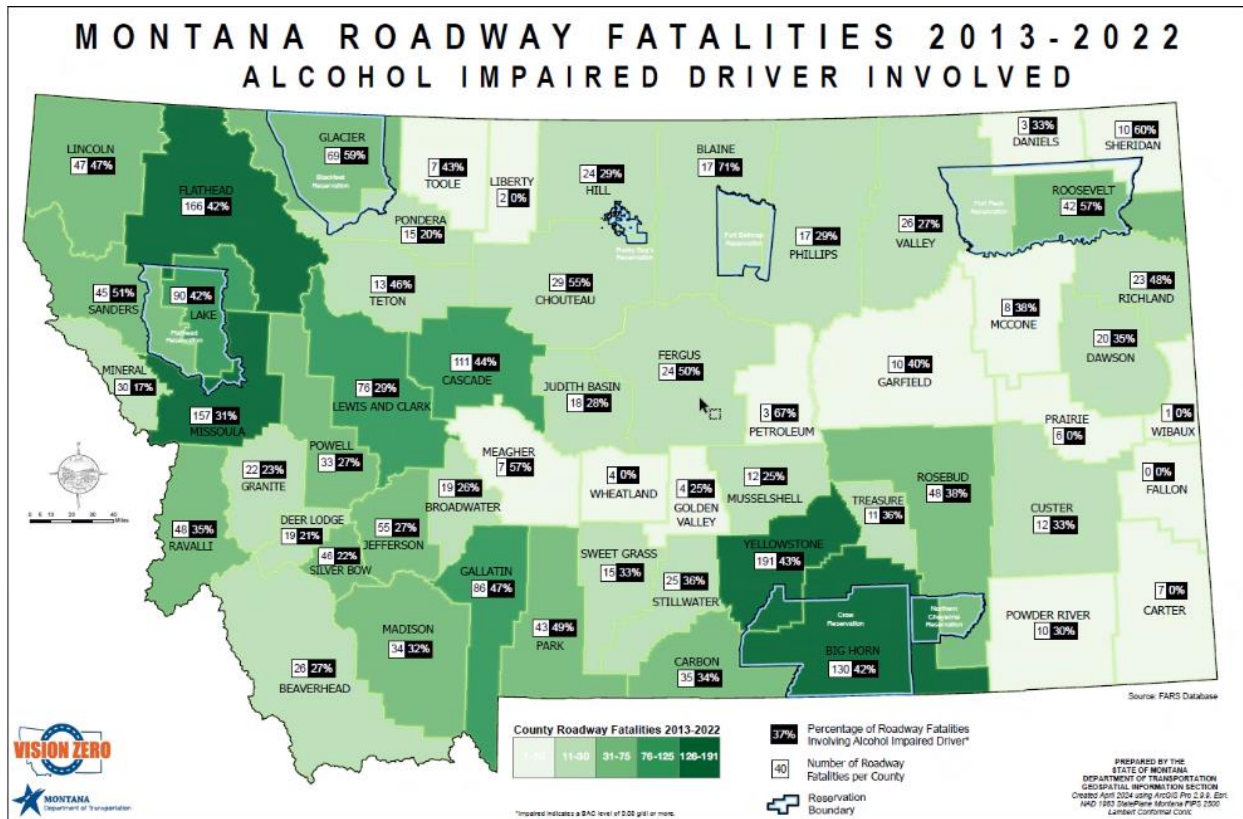
Documents to be reviewed and approved by the ELT include-

- Statewide Impaired Driving Workplan
- State’s response to the Impaired Driving Assessment Recommendations
- Pending projects implementing impaired driving activities/ funding. Description of how spending supports program and targets.

Kevin and Alison Malensek will be reaching out to members for updates in the next few weeks in preparation for the ELT meeting.

Strategy Updates

Strategy 1 - Deterrence and Enforcement



Alcohol Impaired Driver Involved Fatalities map link can be found at [Crash Data | Montana Department of Transportation \(MDT\) \(mt.gov\)](#)

Strategy 2- Prevention and Education

Sgt Ryan Janes of the Montana Highway Patrol reported in 2024 to date, MHP has trained over 120 law enforcement officers with agencies throughout the state. So far this year we have held one ARIDE course, one DRE course and 2 basic level SFST courses.

During the DRE course the 16 students were flown to Mesa, Arizona, where they conducted at least 12 evaluations on individuals who were under the influence of drugs, other than alcohol.

Five (5) more ARIDE classes have been scheduled and 3 additional SFST classes, one of which is for Malstrom Airforce Base. Multiple “wet labs” will be conducted during some of the SFST courses, where we dose individuals to an impairing alcohol concentration. During these wet labs, law enforcement officers get hands on experience with impaired individuals in a controlled environment, to strengthen their confidence and the validity of the NHTSA SFSTs. Additionally, two SFST refresher classes are scheduled so far, and we are also working with other agencies who need a SFST refresher course.

Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, OPI shared that at last month’s MTEA conference the group worked through a focus group exercise breaking into groups of 3-4 to review curriculum modules as a task of the driver manual curriculum update anticipated to be rolled out by next school year (2024-2025). Impaired driving and the risks of such behavior will be included in the update.

Strategy 3- Criminal Justice System

Sgt Lacie Wickham reports the 24/7 Sobriety program continues and is currently working with Liberty County for twice a testing procedure, Choteau County on the SCRAM data system, and working with new coordinators, including tribal representatives, to start up programs or restart those that have languished following COVID. Currently there are 23 active 24/7 programs across the state.

Ed Hirsch shared that he is working on the new prosecutor training that is scheduled to be conducted the first week of October. More information forth coming.

Judge Knisley reported that the STEER program, funded by NHTSA program, to date, has had 80 clients graduated. STEER court graduated 7 participants on 5/1/24. All participants had family and friends attend and each of the guests talked about how the participants life has changed for the better, and what the program has given back to them. CAMO also held a graduation on this date, graduating 6 participants. STEER will be holding a foundational training on July 15-19, 2024.

Bozeman launched a misdemeanor DUI Court on May 2, 2024.

Strategy 4 - Communication Program

New public education and awareness campaigns are being developed and will include speeding, motorcycle safety awareness, distraction among others.

Strategy 6- Program Evaluation and Data

Currently reviewing the FFY 2024 program for 2025 and preparing the annual state’s response on recommendations for ELT review and approval.

Announcements-

- Executive Leadership Team July 25
- 2024 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting- October 16 & 17

Adjourned at 11:01 AM