



## Montana Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan

### CHSP 2025 Update – Kick-Off Meeting

January 31, 2025

### Meeting Summary

#### Topics

- CHSP Background
- CHSP Update Purpose, Vision, and Goal
- Update Process Overview
- Advisory Committee (AC) Roles and Responsibilities
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Summary

#### Recap/Decisions

- Kimley-Horn provided an overview of the history, previous plan efforts, and update process of Montana's CHSP.
- The AC reviewed the 2020 CHSP's purpose and Vision Zero statement, as well as the 2025 CHSP's update key aspects.
- Kimley-Horn reviewed the AC's roles, responsibilities, and meeting dates.
- The AC discussed and shared SWOT items.

#### Next Steps

- Next Meeting - February 28
  - SWOT Summary
  - Data Analysis
  - Discuss Key Focus Areas
- Confirm CHSP Interim Goal
- Safety Target Methodology

**Attendees:**

In-Person

*AC Members:*

1. **Alex Schoening** – Region 10 Program Manager, NHTSA
2. **Bob Seliskar** – FHWA Montana Division
3. **Captain Doug Samuelson** – District VII Commander, Montana Highway Patrol
4. **Casey Redder** – Director, Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS), UM-Helena College
5. **Chief Steve Snavelly** – President, Montana Association Chiefs of Police (MACOP)
6. **Duane Williams** – Chief Executive Officer, Montana Trucking Association
7. **Gabe Priebe** – Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau Chief, MDT
8. **Jeff Butts** – Manager, Gallatin Valley MPO
9. **John Althof** – Rail Highway Safety, Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau, MDT
10. **Jon Swartz** – Administrator, Maintenance Division, MDT
11. **Kevin Dusko** – State Highway Traffic Safety Section Supervisor, MDT
12. **Mike Houghton** – Traffic Education Director, Office of Public Instruction
13. **Mike Poole** – Operations-Motor Carrier Services, MDT
14. **Nadine Hanning** – Great Falls Transit District
15. **Pam Langve-Davis** – CHSP Manager, MDT
16. **Patricia Burke** – Safety Engineer, Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau, MDT
17. **Rob Stapley** – Administrator, Rail, Transit and Planning Division, MDT
18. **Scott Johnson** – Roads Program Manager, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes Roads Program
19. **Shari Graham** – EMS Supervisor, EMS & Trauma Systems, Department of Public Health & Human Services
20. **Shelby Clark** – State Bicyclist & Pedestrian Coordinator, MDT
21. **Ty Weingartner** – Greater Helena Area MPO

*AC Delegates:*

22. **Alyssa Johnson** – Trauma Systems Manager, EMS & Trauma Systems Section, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
23. **Anna Mhoon** – Driver Licensing, Motor Vehicle Division, Montana Department of Justice
24. **Chris Williams** – Enforcement Bureau Chief, Motor Carrier Services, MDT
25. **Dacia English** – Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) - Department of Revenue (DOR)
26. **Charlie Menefee** – Associate Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
27. **Glenn Ingram** – Associate Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
28. **Lt Patrick Erbacher** – Missoula Police Department
29. **Mitch Buthod**, Statewide & Urban Planning Supervisor, Multimodal Planning, MDT
30. **Sheila Cozzie** – State Highway Traffic Safety Section, MDT
31. **Sheila Ludlow** – Integrated Transportation & Publications Supervisor, Multimodal Planning, MDT

*Additional Attendees:*

32. **Jacob Farnsworth** – Kimley-Horn
33. **Mike Colety** – Kimley-Horn

Virtual

*AC Members:*

34. **Aaron Wilson** – Infrastructure & Mobility Planning Manager, Missoula MPO
35. **Charity Burns** – Public Information Officer, MDT
36. **Emma Belmont** – Federal Transit Authority - Region 8
37. **Jordan Hess** – CEO, General Manager, Mountain Line Transit
38. **Kristan Barbour** – Administrator, Cannabis Control Division, Department of Revenue
39. **Larry Morsette** – Transportation Planner, Roads Department, Chippewa Cree Construction
40. **Lyn Hellegaard** – Montana Transit Association
41. **Nanette Gilbertson** – Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) & Montana County Attorney Association
42. **Russ Christoferson** – Enforcement Bureau, Motor Carrier Services, MDT

*AC Delegates:*

43. **Callion Maddox** – Federal Transit Authority Region 8
44. **Jeri Bucy** – Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS), UM-Helena College
45. **Sgt Phil Smart** – Traffic Homicide Investigator, Montana Highway Patrol
46. **Shawn Mahoney** – Great Falls Transit District

*Additional Attendees:*

47. **Jenn Nguyen**, Kimley-Horn

## General Notes:

### CHSP Background (Mike Colety, Kimley-Horn)

- **CHSP Background:** Montana's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) is a federally mandated Strategic Highway Safety Plan that meets Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. The plan was initially developed in 2006 in response to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) 2005 initiative to reduce roadway fatalities and Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requirements, with implementation beginning in 2007. Following its initial rollout, the CHSP has undergone several iterations including amendments in 2010 and updates in 2015 and 2020, in maintaining a five-year update cycle and establishing the target setting methodology for the national performance measures to ensure ongoing effectiveness and compliance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
- **The CHSP Planning Process:** The CHSP planning process establishes a comprehensive, multiagency framework that extends beyond MDT to address safety for all road users on all Montana roads. Subject matter experts representing the safety disciplines of around 4Es of Transportation Safety - Education, Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services and Response, and Engineering - make up the Advisory Committee (AC). This group plays a vital role in both development and implementation. The development process involves analyzing safety data, identifying emphasis areas, and determining strategic approaches to address transportation safety issues in areas of greatest need. The 2025 CHSP Update will follow the FHWA approved CHSP process which includes federal requirements while allowing flexibility in specific approaches for Montana.

### CHSP Update Purpose and Overview (Mike Colety, Kimley-Horn)

- **2020 CHSP Purpose:** The AC defined the purpose of the CHSP -  
*To facilitate collaboration, communication, and coordination among highway and traffic safety programs and partners to align goals and leverage resources across Montana to reduce deaths and life changing serious injuries resulting from roadway crashes.*
- **CHSP Vision Statement:** Montana's CHSP employs a "Vision Zero" statement targeting the elimination of all fatalities and serious injuries on Montana's roadways. The current CHSP interim goal is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Montana's roads by half from 952 in 2018 to 476 in 2030. There needs to be an annual reduction of 73 fatalities and serious injuries (FSI) to reach the goal of 476 annual FSI by 2030.
- **2025 CHSP Update Key Aspects:** 4Es of Transportation Safety, Safety Stakeholder Coordination, Analyze Safety Data, Confirm Emphasis Areas, Determine Strategies, Actions and Countermeasures, Safety Target Methodology, Track Implementation & Evaluation
  - The CHSP update is expected to be a 9-month process focusing on Montana's roadway safety, structured around 4Es of Transportation Safety. The update process involves safety stakeholder coordination through 5-6 AC meetings, with committee members and delegates currently completing a SWOT survey to establish a baseline for implementation improvements. Subject matter experts from state, local, and tribal governments, identified per federal regulations, have been invited to participate as AC members to analyze safety data, confirm Emphasis Areas (EA), and determine strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities (Mike Colety, Kimley-Horn)

- **AC Roles and Responsibilities:** AC members serve as the 4Es Transportation Safety experts and provide oversight in development of EA and strategies ensuring activities align with CHSP purpose, overall goal, vision, and strategies. They are needed for both development and long-term alignment of activities with the EAs, providing subject matter expertise and implementation guidance to EA Teams, to align and coordinate workplan development, safety activities, resources, and campaigns; and to evaluate effectiveness and implementation of strategies in reducing severe (fatalities and serious) injuries. They provide implementation guidance to EA Teams to provide program insight Members, contributing input on agency resources and programs.
  
- **Implementation Plans:** These workplans must be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART), with AC members taking direct responsibility for developing and executing EA implementation plans. AC members ensure all strategies and opportunities are achievable within defined timeframes (short to long term) while maintaining realistic goals.
  
- **2025 AC Meetings:**
  - #1 – Data Analysis – February 28
  - #2 – Emphasis Area – April 10
  - #3 – Strategies – June 26
  - #4 – Implementation Plans – August 13-14
    - MDT Annual Meeting
  - #5 – Final Review – October 9

SWOT Summary (Jacob Farnsworth, Kimley-Horn)

- AC members and delegates provided SWOT insights for 2025 CHSP update.
  - **Strengths:** Data-driven approach with well-written strategies, involving broad stakeholder collaboration and promoting Vision Zero principles through a Safety-First culture that engages diverse stakeholders across multiple emphasis areas.
  - **Weaknesses:** Montana's geographic characteristics and rural nature of the state pose challenges. Other factors include increasing population, adverse weather conditions, lack of wildlife conflict and crossing data, lack of EMS and trauma systems funding, EMS response timing, lack of proactive law enforcement, lack of manpower and resources, independent/resistant culture, and media messaging opportunities.
  - **Opportunities:** Technological advancements offer potential solutions through autonomous vehicles and enhanced response systems. Additional possibilities include expanded data collection methods, stakeholder engagement initiatives, and pilot programs to advance transportation practices.
  - **Threats:** Montana's current legislative framework, coupled with rapid population growth and volunteer-based EMS systems, influence safety initiatives. Weather conditions, traffic volumes, and resource allocation also affect response capabilities.