

**CHSP Roadway Departure &  
Intersection Crashes  
Emphasis Area Meeting**

Tuesday, June 17, 2025  
10 am - noon



**Attendees:**

Aaron Wilson, Transportation Division Manager, Missoula MPO  
Brooke Struve, FHWA Resource Center  
Captain Dan Carroll, Motor Carrier Enforcement Bureau, Butte Division  
Carl Peil, AARP Driver Instructor  
Casey Redder, Director, Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety (MMRS)  
Charity Burns, Public Information Officer, Director's Office, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)  
Charlie Menefee, Associate Transportation Planner, Public Works & Mobility, Missoula MPO  
Dustin Rouse, Chief Engineer, Highways & Engineering Division, MDT  
Gabe Priebe, Co-Chair & Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau Chief, MDT  
Mara Flynn, Intern, Public Information Office, MDT  
Matt Ulberg, Executive Director, LTAP- MSU  
Megan Handl, FHWA Montana Division  
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Manager, MDT  
Patricia Burke, Co-Chair & Safety Engineer, Traffic & Safety Engineering, MDT  
Stan Brelin, Traffic Operations Engineer, MDT  
Shelby Clark, Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, MDT  
Will Cole, Safety Coordinator, Montana Trucking Association

Meeting purpose- roundtable discussion of new strategies efforts, project and strategy status updates, and next steps.

**New Business**

Following introductions, Gabe Priebe, co-chair spoke about implementing SB 433 and development of public education and distribution plan. SB 433 goes into effect October 1, 2025. The passage of SB433 focuses on revising right-of-way laws regarding roundabouts and amends MCA 61-8-327. The bill did not include funding for public education and outreach. Safety partners included in the conversation include AARP, LTAP-MSU, Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety, Motor Carrier Services, Montana Trucking Association, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and the MDT Public Information Office. Once the messaging has been developed it can also be sent to law enforcement agencies.

Before the meeting Gabe sent out a handout covering possible signing, and potential guidance for public education. Charity Burns noted the message needs to be clear and align with the original intent of the law. The group agreed that it is important to keep "towing" in the language. Gabe will be working to confirm MUTCD sign standards, sight distance and will be meeting with

Mike Houghton with OPI to discuss further. Dustin Rouse made note that new signs can display orange flags for a planned duration. Law enforcement is needed to weigh in on conversation.

#### Other Legislative Impacts

HB 312 – Revise speed limit laws. - AN ACT REVISING SPEED LIMIT LAWS; INCREASING DAYTIME AND NIGHTTIME SPEED LIMITS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPANDED TO FOUR LANES; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION FOR SPECIAL SPEED ZONES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-303 AND 61-8-725, MCA.

An education component was discussed with potential for news release with a reporter and opportunity for geo fencing.

SB 471- Generally revise vehicular traffic laws related to pedestrian crossings. - AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING VEHICULAR TRAFFIC LAWS RELATED TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS; PROVIDING THE OFFENSE OF ENDANGERMENT OF PEDESTRIANS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-502, MCA.

An education component was discussed to increase awareness, including an increase in fines.

#### Strategy & Project Updates

Patricia Burke reported that high tension cable median barrier has been installed, roughly 100 miles from Bozeman to Three Forks, east, west, north and south of Butte, and in the Missoula area. Preliminary crash information has shown these barriers have been effective in the Bozeman area. During the first year, nearly 40% of the barrier related crashes involved vehicles crossing the entire median width before impacting the high-tension barrier.

Wrong way driving intervention strategies have been coordinated with Montana Highway Patrol, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, MDT Butte District, MDT Bozeman Maintenance, and MDT's Traffic Design Section. The Gallatin County Sheriff was the lead for these efforts.

Aaron Wilson, Missoula MPO reported on Missoula's South Avenue SS4A project that includes crossing improvements, rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), roundabouts, separated bicyclist and pedestrian facilities, and quick builds at uncontrolled intersections. Pre- and post-data use speed trailers are being used to collect traffic data.

Patricia Burke reported that the railroad crossing program continues to identify sites eligible for Section 130 funding. A major challenge to implementing these safety projects is that

construction costs have doubled over the past 5 years while the funding levels have remained the same.

#### Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures (ATSPM) Project- Stan Brelin

ATSPM Big Sky was activated in October, and the other locations Main-Billings, Reserve-Missoula and Polson were all running by January of this year. Reserve St will be a signal retiming project using ATSPM.

Stan shared an update on the Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Policy that MDT is developing. It's anticipated to be completed in fall 2025.

#### Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP)- Matt Ulberg

Roundabouts remain a hot topic. Rural communities are open to receiving information and educational training from LTAP. Matt appreciates the MDT Roundabout rack cards and uses them often in training. Other countermeasures are shared at these training courses with county maintenance, public works, and tribal maintenance. LTAP promotes and distributes educational training opportunities through weblinks, newsletters, email blasts, and via other safety partners.

#### Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety- Casey Redder

Casey reports he is working with an Advisory Committee with OPI to include motorcyclist safety awareness and education in curriculum. Driving scenarios have been developed with placement of motorcycles in a parking lot used in Butte, Columbia Falls, and Missoula.

Due to many people not understanding what lane filtering is, Casey has been working on developing an educational video. Once completed he will provide that to Pam so that it might be shared with stakeholder groups and safety partners. It was also noted that all MMRS classes include lane splitting and discuss the difference of lane filtering which is not legal in Montana.

The biggest challenge that MMRS is facing is the need for coaches and the continuing challenge of available motorcycle ranges. Send Casey any leads on coaches or training ranges.

#### AARP – Carl Peil

Carl reported they are in the process of rebuilding after Covid, focusing on training and attendance. There are nine AARP districts across Montana, currently there are three districts that are no longer active. Carl reported that comparatively, in 2018 there were 177 classroom training courses with over 2,072 participants, and 794 on-line participants, whereas; in 2024 there were 61 classes, 567 participants, and 273 on-line participants. Carl shared that Fred "Rocky" Clark is the new state AARP Driver Safety coordinator.

#### State Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator- Shelby Clark

Shelby has been attending bike rodeos in Three Forks, Helena, and Gallatin County and providing bicycling education resource information for children. Other educational outreach has included attending local after-school programs teaching bike safety to elementary students. Earlier this spring, Shelby conducted training for seniors at St Peter's Health about pedestrian safety. Additionally, Shelby continues to work on pedestrian and bicyclist safety articles, campaigns, and social media.

#### Annual Transportation Safety Meeting

August 13 & 14, Carroll College in All Saints Hall, Lower Commons, in Helena

#### Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Pam Langve-Davis, second by Stan Brelin.