

..... MONTANA 2025

# Safe Road Users Breakout Sessions

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*Dr. Nic Ward, Safe System Solutions*  
*2025 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting*  
*Helena, Montana*



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation





# Safe Road Users



**Unrestrained  
Vehicle  
Occupant**



**Impaired  
Driver**



**Careless/Inattentive/  
Distracted**



# Safe Road Users

- Breakout Group Facilitator
  - Nic Ward, Safe System Solutions
- Breakout Group Subject Matter Experts
  - Kevin Dusko, State Highway Traffic Safety MDT
  - Alison Malensek, State Highway Traffic Safety MDT

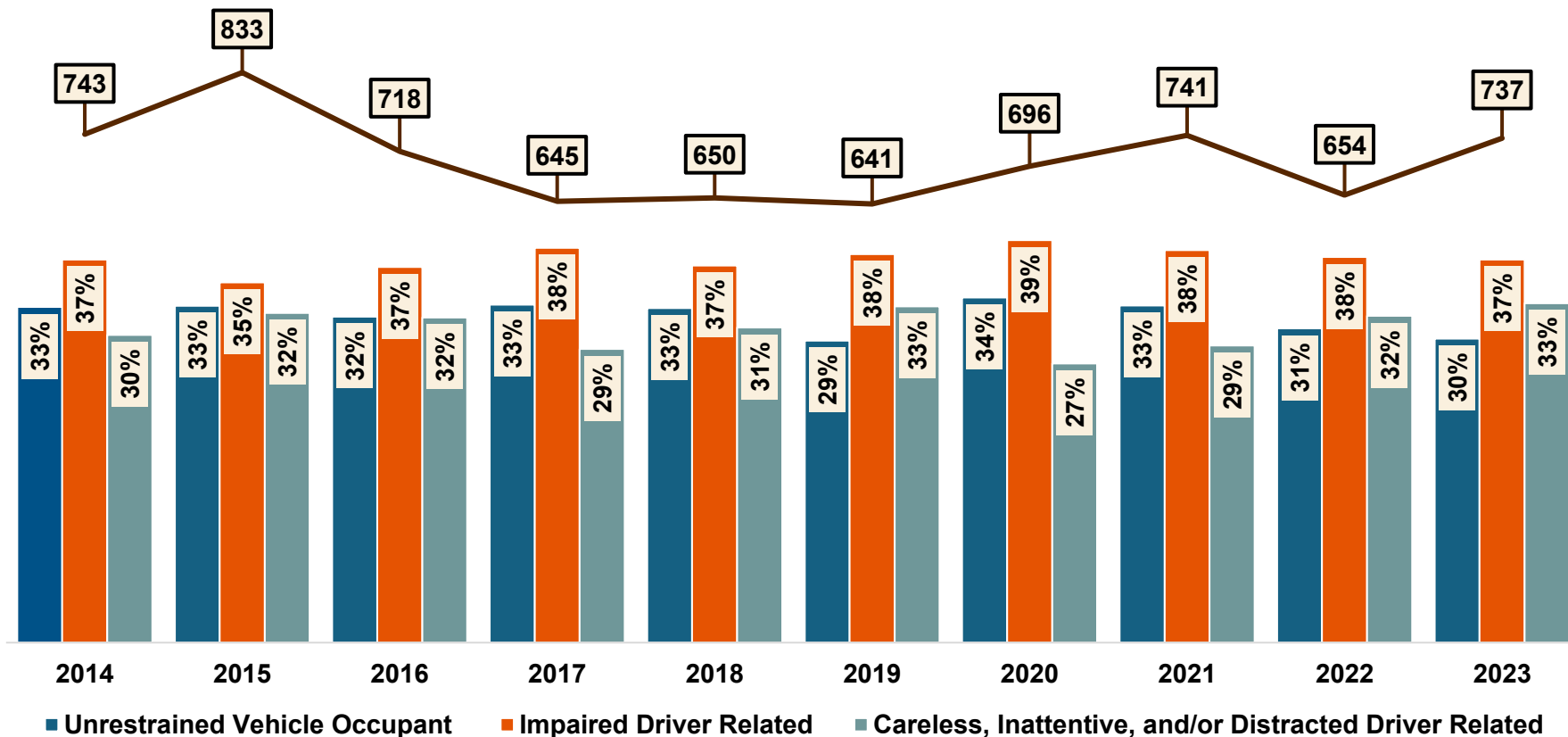


# Strategy Break-Out Sessions

- Data driven problem identification
- Overview of strategy framework
- Review prior strategies
- Group discussion on strategies for Montana



# Safe Road Users: Fatalities & Serious Injuries (FSI)



*\*Please note that the figure percentages and numbers above may not sum up to the yearly total for the FSI. This discrepancy results from overlaps among existing sub-emphasis areas within each primary emphasis area.*





# Safe Road Users Factsheet Summaries



## Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant

- 35% Total FSI
- Rural
- Summer
- Young (14-35)



## Impaired Driver

- 41% Total FSI
- Rural
- Summer
- Fri-Sun
- Young (14-35)



## Careless/Inattentive/Distracted

- 34% Total FSI
- Rural
- Summer
- Young (14-35)
- Old (65+)

*\*Factors summarized above represent **involvement** in the sub-emphasis area's fatalities and serious injuries. It does not indicate fault determination or liability assignment. The data reflects all parties involved in reported crash circumstances as documented by investigating officers*



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# Safe System Approach

Strategy Disciplines  
(methods)

Education, Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Engineering, and **Everyone (TSC)**



Guiding Principles  
(System Culture)

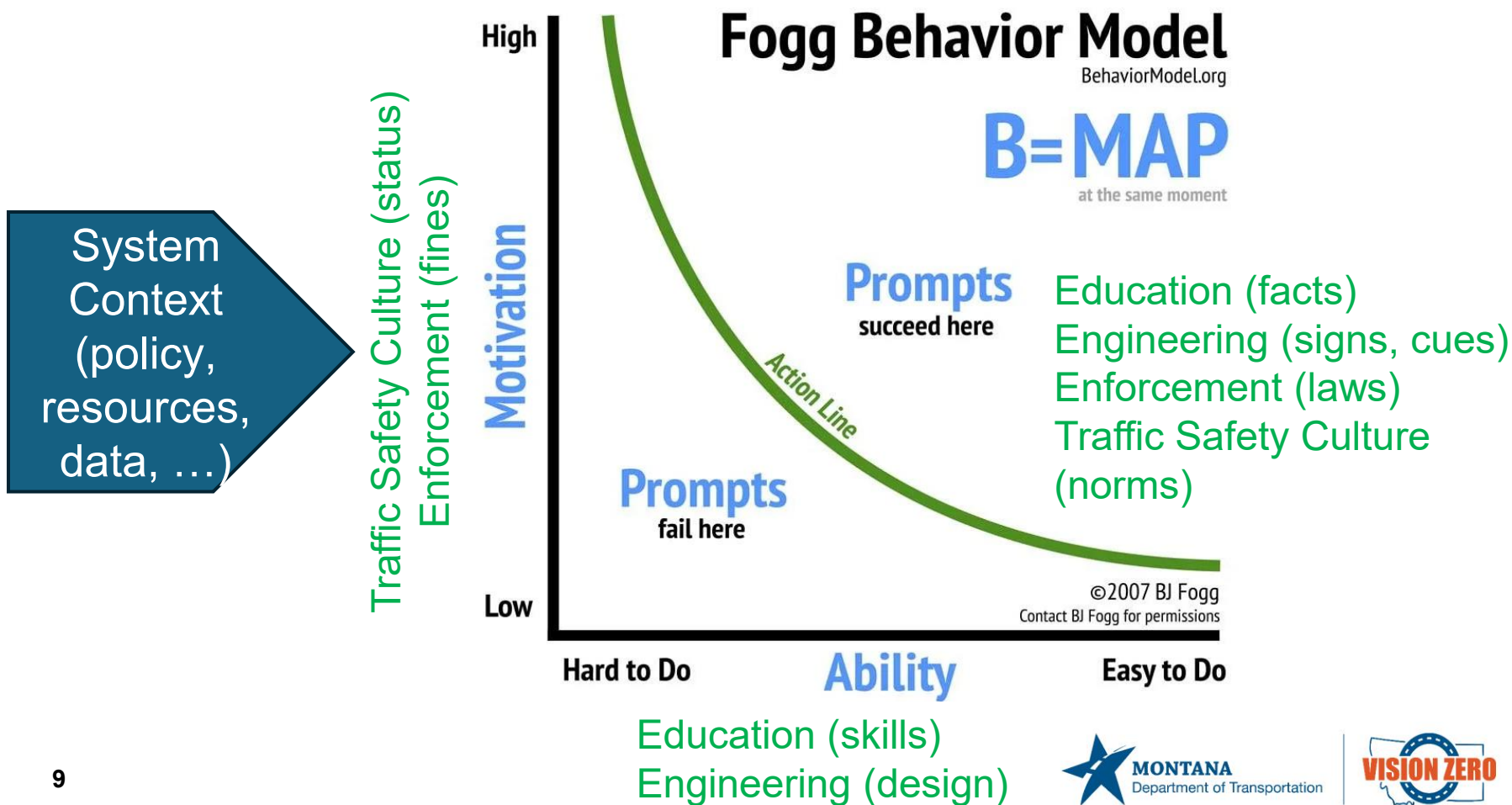
Source: FHWA





# Safe Road Users Strategy Framework

## Safe Road Users = Safe Behaviors





# Strategy Framework

## Safe Road Users = Safe Behaviors



Unrestrained  
Vehicle Occupant

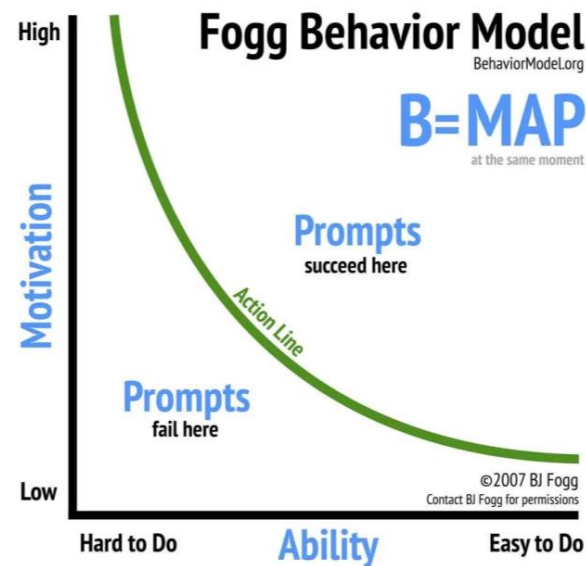


Impaired  
Driver



Careless/Inattentive  
Distracted

	Prompt	Ability	Motivation
Engineering (road/vehicle)	P1	A4	
Education	P2	A5	
Traffic Safety Culture		A6	M7
Enforcement	P3		M8





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# Unrestrained Vehicle Occupants - 2020 Strategies

- Laws and enforcement
- Communication, education, and injury prevention
- Improve unrestrained vehicle occupant data



# Impaired Driving – 2020 Strategies

- Deterrence and enforcement
- Prevention and education
- Criminal justice system
- Communication program
- Alcohol and other drug misuse: screening, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation
- Program evaluation and data





# National Strategies for Safe Road Users

1. Ensure safety messaging reflects the Safe System Approach principle of human fragility.
2. **Take licensing actions against commercial drivers who have drug or alcohol violations.**
3. Support electronic exchange of driver history record information to support taking unsafe drivers off the road.
4. **Identify and educate repeat offenders of impaired driving and other behavioral safety issues.**
5. Increase commercial motor vehicle high visibility traffic enforcement against risky driver behavior focused on high crash locations.



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# Strategy Discussion

Safe Road Users = Safe Behaviors



Unrestrained  
Vehicle Occupant

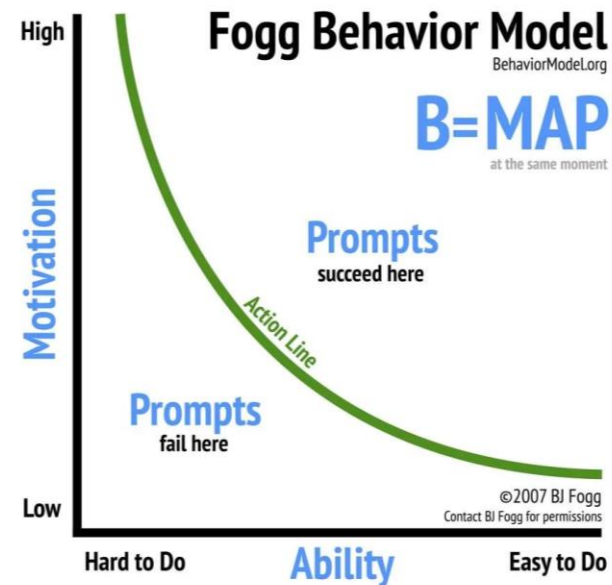


Impaired  
Driver



Careless/Inattentive  
Distracted

	Prompt	Ability	Motivation
Engineering (road/vehicle)	P1	A4	
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# Voting and Takeaways



Participants will vote on the top 3 strategies  
and top 3 actionable items.