

BOZEMAN COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

Volume 2

August 2013



Transportation Safety Summit

The Transportation Safety Summit—a critical event in the development of Bozeman’s Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP)—was held on the evening of March 20, 2013 at the Bozeman City Hall. The event was held with the goal of reaching a wider audience of community members and stakeholders, in particular those with expertise in the Emphasis Area topics (safety belt/occupant protection use, inattentive/distracted driving crashes, and bicycle and pedestrian crashes). At the Summit, participants from the community confirmed the Emphasis Areas and safety goal. A secondary objective of the meeting was to discuss strategies and action steps to form the basis of the work plan.

Bozeman Mayor Sean Becker welcomed the group and underscored the importance of decreasing the number of crashes in the city, citing the significant personal loss, economic repercussions, and financial hardship that result from crashes. Additionally, Cambridge Systematics staff presented information on Bozeman crash data and the Community Transportation Safety Plan development process to date

Twenty seven individuals participated in the three-hour transportation safety planning workshop. Participants included representatives from the City of Bozeman, the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee, the Bozeman Chronicle, Child Care Connections, the Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board, the Bozeman Police Department, Montana Highway Patrol, Collin’s Coalition, Montana State University, MDT- Engineering and Planning staff, and local residents.



At the Summit, participants divided into three groups for discussion of the safety issues in the community and potential strategies to address them. In addition, the groups identified action steps that the community members can take to implement the plan over the next five years. After the discussion the Summit attendees regrouped and the team

leaders presented the strategies and action items ideas to the full group., The strength of a community-based safety plan is that partnerships can be formed among the groups, organizations and institutions in the community and customized approaches to improving safety in Bozeman can be developed.

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For more information:

Visit the MDT safety web site at:
www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/



Safety Plan Goal:

Reduce Fatalities and injuries by 25 percent between 2013 and 2018, from 213 to 160 fatalities and injuries.



Drivers who text are 23 times more likely to be in a crash, according to the US Department of Transportation. A current safety strategy used in eleven Montana communities, including Bozeman, is a ban that prohibit use of cell phones—including texting—while driving.



Safety Strategies

Safety strategies represent an approach to improving safety in the community that addresses a defined transportation crash type (i.e. inattentive, unbelted, or bicycle and pedestrian). Implementation of the strategy will involve a series of more specific action steps. Strategies are determined with crash data in mind so they are targeting the most significant crash factors within that Emphasis Area (e.g. the demographic groups with highest crash involvement, or times of day with highest numbers of crashes). They may be phased in over the five-year span of the plan and can be prioritized based on the Emphasis Area team’s interest and resources.

Below is the list of strategies developed at the Safety Summit and which form the basis of the Plan.

Inattentive Driving Strategies

- **Strategy 1:** Publicize the risks of distracted driving and conduct enforcement of distracted driving, including electronic handheld device use while driving.
- **Strategy 2:** Conduct ongoing public education and outreach about safe driving protocols/skills and retraining opportunities.

Occupant Protection Strategies

- **Strategy 1:** Promote safety belt use, through broadened membership partners and increase activity of the Greater Gallatin Safety Coalition.
- **Strategy 2:** Conduct targeted youth outreach to increase safety belt use.
- **Strategy 3:** Conduct outreach to Montana State University students on the importance of wearing safety belts in vehicles.
- **Strategy 4:** Conduct general media outreach on the importance of safety belt use focusing on

demographic groups with high rates of non-use. Complement outreach with targeted enforcement.

- **Strategy 5:** Collaborate with judges to ensure the judicial process is supportive of increased enforcement of safety belt non-use.
- **Strategy 6:** Enact a local ordinance making non-use of a safety belt a primary offense in Bozeman.
- **Strategy 7:** Conduct increased outreach about the need for vehicle passenger’s ages 4 to 9 to use booster seats.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Strategies

- **Strategy 1:** Increase bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Bozeman, including bicycle lanes, sidewalks, signage and pavement markings.
- **Strategy 2:** Reduce impaired bicycling and walking.
- **Strategy 3:** Increase reporting of bicycle and pedestrian crashes.
- **Strategy 4:** Conduct public education about safe operating procedures between bicyclists and pedestrians and vehicles
- **Strategy 5:** Increase enforcement of safe behaviors by both drivers around bicyclists and pedestrians and by bicyclist and pedestrians as they enter into the transportation mix.

Each strategy has several associated action steps/ activities. These are specific steps for implementing the strategy over time with the objective of reducing fatal and injury crashes. For more information on the action steps associated with these strategies you can access the plan at:

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/bozemanctsp

Implementation

Completion of the Bozeman Community Transportation Safety Plan is just the first step toward improving the safety of community residents on Bozeman roadways. Implementation of the plan is a critical component and next step of the CTSP plan process.

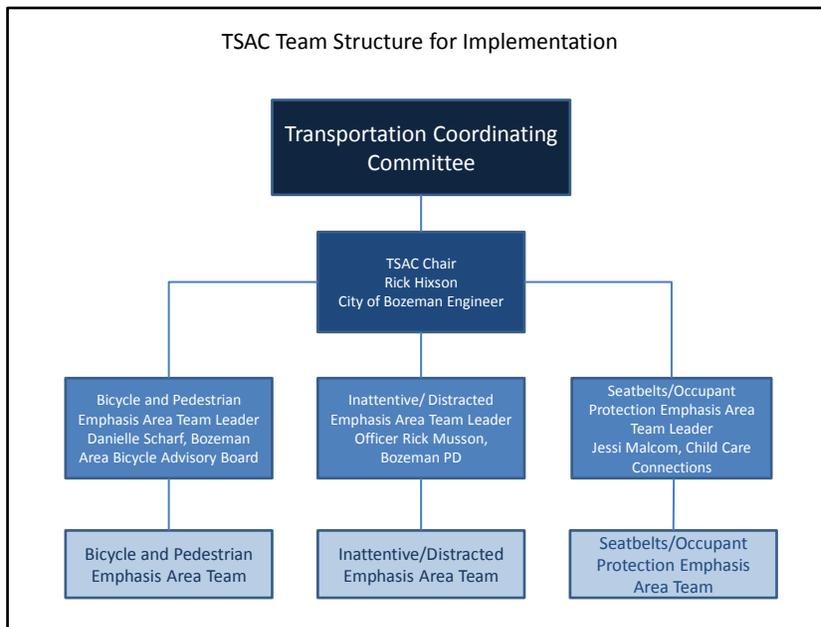
A committed group of stakeholders – the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)– has been established as part of the plan development process. All members involved have provided their knowledge, expertise, and best ideas and commitment to this safety plan. Development of this safety planning process was accomplished by the safety partners and stakeholders who make up the TSAC. Throughout plan implementation, TSAC members will continue to provide overarching guidance, and be involved in implementation of individual strategies.

The TSAC will provide oversight of the safety effort and report progress to the Transportation Coordinating Committee. Each Emphasis Area will report progress to the TSAC quarterly. Implementation of each strategy listed on page 2 must be tracked and the performance measures monitored to ensure progress is being made. The TSAC will report results to MDT annually.



Community involvement is critical. For any substantive change to occur, the plan's safety strategies must be implemented. The momentum achieved through the TSAC and at the Safety Summit must be maintained to carry out safety strategies to reduce crashes and fatalities in Bozeman.

Figure 1: CTSP Implementation Structure



Regular progress tracking and reporting is essential to the CTSP's success. Monitoring progress allows the City Engineer, the TSAC, the TCC and MDT to assess and modify strategies as necessary to accomplish the Bozeman's Community Transportation Safety Plan goal. Performance measures the TSAC Emphasis Area teams will track annually include overall fatalities and injuries, as well as total crashes, fatalities, and incapacitating injuries involving each of the Emphasis Areas (inattentive/distracted driving, unbelted/occupant protection use, and pedestrians/bicyclist crashes).



**Visit the Bozeman Community Transportation Safety Plan web site:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/bozemanctsp**

Emphasis Area Team Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Emphasis Area teams will be to:

- Define performance measures and set targets (i.e. reduction in number of fatalities and injuries for Emphasis Area crashes)
- Assign responsibilities for action steps
- Undertake the action steps for each strategy
- Meet regularly to assess progress and relevant developments
- Report quarterly to the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee Chair
- Modify or develop new strategies as appropriate, depending on resources and progress toward achieving goals

How To Get Involved

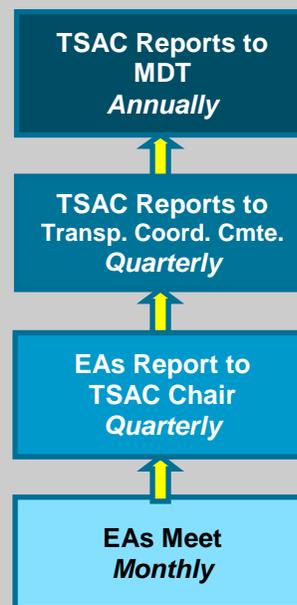
Public involvement in the implementation of the CTSP over the next five years is critical. The public is invited to be involved in the plan's implementation as part of an Emphasis Area team, even without having attended the Safety Summit. Individuals may contact the Emphasis Area team leaders directly:

- **Inattentive/Distracted Driving:** Officer Rick Musson, Bozeman Police Department, (406) 582-2000 or rmusson@bozeman.net
- **Safety Belts/Occupant Protection:** Jessi Malcolm, Buckle Up MT/Child Care Connections, (406) 587-7786 or jess4cps@yahoo.com.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian:** Danielle Scharf, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee, (406) 922-4325 or dscharf@sandersonstewart.com.

Citizens interested in participating in the plan's implementation may also contact the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee Chair, Bozeman City Engineer Rick Hixson at (406) 582-2280 or rhimson@bozeman.net.



Implementation Reporting Schedule



To get involved in the CTSP implementation, contact TSAC chair:

Rick Hixson
Bozeman City Engineer
406-582-2280
rhimson@bozeman.net