

Montana 2019 TRCC Self-Assessment

The Montana State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) requested a Traffic Records Program Assessment from the NHTSA Region 10 Administrator in 2018. The assessment began in December 2018 and was completed in May 2019.

To begin the assessment SHTSS staff and the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) participated in entering responses to the uniform set of questions contained in the *Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory* (Report No. DOT HS 811 644). The questions were answered by subject matter experts through the NHTSA State Traffic Records Assessment Program (STRAP).

According to 23 CFR Part 1300, § 1300.22, applicants for State traffic information system improvements grants are required to: *"include(s) a list of all recommendations from its most recent highway safety data and traffic records system assessment"*. In addition to the list, the state recommendations also:

- *Identifies which such recommendations described in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, the State intends to address in this fiscal year, the projects in the HSP that implement each recommendation and the performance measures to be used to demonstrate quantifiable and measurable progress; and*
- *Identifies which recommendations described in paragraphs (b)(2)(ii) of this section the state does not intend to address in the fiscal year and explains the reason for not implementing the recommendations.*

The following are the 2019 TRCC assessment recommendations:

Strategic Planning Recommendations

- Strengthen the TRCC's abilities for strategic planning that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Crash Recommendations

- Improve the applicable guidelines for the Crash data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the procedures/ process flows for the Crash data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the data quality control program for the Crash data system that reflects best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Vehicle Recommendations

- Improve the procedures/ process flows for the Vehicle data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the data quality control program for the Vehicle data system that reflects best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Driver Recommendations

- Improve the interfaces with the Driver data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

- Improve the data quality control program for the Driver data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Roadway Recommendations

- Improve the description and contents of the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the applicable guidelines for the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the data dictionary for the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the procedures/ process flows for the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the interfaces with the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Citation/Adjudication Recommendations

- Improve the data dictionary for the Citation and Adjudication data system that reflects best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the data quality control program for the Citation and Adjudication data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

EMS/ Injury Surveillance Recommendations

- Improve the interfaces with the Injury Surveillance systems that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.
- Improve the data quality control program for the Injury Surveillance system that reflects best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Data Use and Integration Recommendations

- Improve the traffic records systems capacity to integrate data that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory

Montana 2019 Responses to the Self-Assessment Module Recommendations

SHTSS will continue to work through the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee to integrate the recommendations where practicable. Janet Kenny, Supervisor of the State Highway Traffic Safety Section, is TRCC as chairperson.

Montana Responses to Assessment Module Recommendations:

Strategic Planning Recommendations

- Strengthen the TRCC's abilities for strategic planning that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.

Response: The Montana Traffic Records Strategic Plan (TRSP) was completed in 2015 and accounts for the broad view of the activities going on in all parts of the traffic records system,

the TRSP Annual Element provides needed updates annually by the TRCC to provide documentation and updates for Montana's existing traffic safety programs and to report the status of the TRSP implementation, including an updated timeline. Montana will continue this annual element update.

TRCC Goal: An actively engaged TRCC Committee, freely shared information/data, TRCC team decisions, Informed stakeholders, strategic plan is a blueprint

TRSP Strategy: TRCC #5 Maintain multi-jurisdictional Traffic Records Coordinating Committee and #10 Enhance awareness among agency leadership by developing an annual report card, i.e. the Annual Element.

Montana Responses to Assessment Module Recommendations: As recommendations are similar between section modules, ***MDT will be submitting responses grouped by data dictionary, interfaces, data quality control and integration.***

- **Improve the interfaces with the Crash data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.**
 - **Recommendations for modules: Crash, Vehicle, Roadway, Citation/Adjudication, and EMS/Injury Surveillance**

Response:

Crash: 2019/2020 TRCC Funded Project : the DOJ MHP Crash Data Repository will start in late 2019 or early 2020. This will enable Montana to have in place a system capable of electronically collecting and archiving over 90% of all roadway crashes. The new repository will allow all law enforcement agencies currently using computer input crash reporting to submit crash reports electronically to MHP, eliminating the printing and shipping of crash reports, and manual data entry of these crash reports in MHP's current crash database. This project is a natural extension of the on-going MHP Web Based Crash Reporting (WBCR) project funded by TRCC.

TRSP Strategy: #11 Continue to fund and support increasing the use of electronic data reporting among local enforcement.

Performance Measure: Timeliness, Uniformity

EMS/Injury Surveillance: 2019 TRCC Funded Project: EMS Data Collection Project, Montana DPHHS EMS & Trauma Systems provides a data collection system to all EMS agencies in the state. This project will allow rural volunteer ambulance services the ability to enter data through the Montana EMS data collection system. This project will increase the number of rural ambulance services (95% is goal) using the ePCR system to report to the state EMS data collection system.

TRSP Strategy: #9 Identify issues related to crash records in current injury surveillance systems including EMS data and #7 Continue to fund and support existing systems.

Performance Measure: Completeness, Uniformity

Vehicle/Driver/Roadway/Citation/Adjudication/EMS/Injury Surveillance: Agency projects: Several database upgrades are currently underway throughout Montana's state agencies; further additions to MDT's Safety Information Management System (SIMS) application (completed in 2014) will be investigated as these projects reach completion and implementation.

TRSP Strategy: #7 Continue to fund and support existing systems.

Performance Measures: The various agency database upgrades will address the six core traffic records performance attributes.

- **Improve the data quality control program for the Driver data system that reflects best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.**
 - **Recommendations for modules: Crash, Vehicle, Driver, Roadway, Citation/Adjudication, and EMS/Injury Surveillance)**

Response:

Driver: Montana Motor Vehicle Division, in the Department of Justice, has implemented several projects in the last year to enhance the quality of driver data being collected and used to verify credentials for procuring a Montana driver license, whether personal or commercial. These projects are in various stages of implementation and will be reporting performance progress to the TRCC. (DOJ MVD Digital Image Exchange, DOJ MVD Passport Verification, DOJ MVD CDL Audit)

TRSP Strategy: #7 Continue to fund and support existing systems.

Performance Measures: Uniformity, Accuracy

Driver & Citation/Adjudication: 2019 TRCC funded Project: DOJ/MHP Upgrades to the JRCS System: the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) is updating its database transfer system with the MDOJ updated centralized statewide courts database system. MHP requires this data transfer protocol to procure traffic citation adjudication data from the courts. This data is used and published by MHP and other MDOJ departments like the Montana Motor Vehicles Division (drivers licenses). The JRCS will establish a direct data link between the driver's information from MVD and the individual's citation adjudication data.

TRSP Strategy: #7 Continue to fund and support existing systems. #8 Work with DOJ Systems to determine if completeness, timeliness, accessibility can be improved. #17 Improve the timeliness of citation and adjudication integration into crash records.

Performance Measures: Integration, accessibility, Timeliness

Crash/Vehicle/Roadway/EMS/Injury Surveillance: The State of Montana's participating traffic records systems (Crash, Vehicle, Driver, Roadway, Citation/Adjudication, EMS/Injury Surveillance) will continue to monitor and improve their data quality control programs and identify upgrades as feasible. Agency Projects: database upgrades are currently underway throughout Montana's state agencies; further additions to MDT's Safety Information Management System (SIMS) application (completed in 2014) will be investigated as these projects reach completion and implementation.

- **Improve the data dictionary for the Roadway data system that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory.**

Response: Montana's TRCC does not have the mandate to oversee the database practices of any state agency. The recommendations generated by the self-assessment tool have been provided to all TRCC participating agencies. Establishing a publishable collection of database elements associated with traffic records is a goal of the TRSP, however not a priority at this point.

- **Improve the traffic records systems capacity to integrate data that reflect best practices identified in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory**

Response: Montana's TRCC will continue to work with and support any traffic records integration efforts. The TRCC does not have the mandate to create, manage, or direct data integration projects. The recommendations generated by the self-assessment tool have been provided to all TRCC participating agencies.