

Roadway Departure & Intersection Crashes CHSP Emphasis Area Meeting

MDT Planning Conference Room A
Les Schwab Building- 2960 Prospect Avenue – Helena, MT
Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 10 am to 11:30am



VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries
MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Attendees:

Roy Peterson, Chair - Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau (MDT)
Marcee Allen, Safety Engineer (FHWA)
Audrey Allums, Grants Bureau (MDT)
Melinda Barnes, Executive Director, Bike Walk MT
Gina Beretta, NHTSA (via phone)
Patricia Burke, Safety Engineer (MDT)
James Combs, Preconstruction (MDT)
Ed Ereth, Data & Statistics (MDT)
Dennis Hult, Motor Carriers-Operations (MDT)
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Program Coordinator, (MDT)
Patrick McJannet, Audit & CDL Section (MVD-DOJ)
Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, (MDT)
Carl Peil, Driving Instructor (AARP)
Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education (OPI)
Bob Walker, Chair, Last Chance Motorcycle Riders
Clark Wheeler, State Coordinator (Operation Lifesaver)

Crash Data to Date-

As of July 17, 2017, there have been 94 fatalities compared to 95 at this time last year. While it may not be reflected in these numbers overall Montana is trending 3% lower over the current 5-year average.

Strategy Updates & Next Steps

Infrastructure Improvements (1)(4) Centerline rumble strip installation began in the Butte District Fall 2015-2016. Butte District installation project started in the fall of 2015; completed in summer of 2016. Billings District began and completed implementation in 2016. Great Falls District installation began in the Spring of 2016 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2017.

Based on recent feedback from public a public awareness and safety campaign will be reinitiated. The safety messaging will include newspaper, radio and social media. The safety countermeasure has also been highlighted on the MDT home page and shared with safety partners for further distribution. Campaign kicked off April 15 of this year.

Next step: The installation schedule is planned in Glendive District in 2018 and Missoula in 2019.

A potential upcoming project will be to consider exploring whether to modifying cable medium barrier and set back warrants.

Intersection Safety Study development is using the same process and procedures methodology used in Roadway Departure Study. Staff is currently selecting 50-60 piloting locations within districts.

Next Step: Conduct safety analysis on pilot locations.

Road Safety Audit (RSA) Recommendation & Implementation Process (1) In the past couple of years 7 or 8 RSAs have been conducted. The recommendations of these RSAs are being reviewed and summarized to see what has been implemented and what recommendations will move forward.

Next Step: Roy will report summary and recommendation at the December 2017 meeting.

Operation Safe Driver (2) Dennis Hult reported that Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) has conducted two events in 2017 to address unsafe driving behaviors by both commercial motor vehicle drivers and other motor vehicle drivers to combat the number of deaths and injuries from crashes. These events are coordinated with MHP to increase commercial vehicle and non-commercial vehicle traffic enforcement, safety belt enforcement, and driver roadside inspections; improve driver compliance; and increase awareness to the general traveling public about safe operations around commercial motor vehicles.

AARP (3) Carl Peil reported that training is ongoing. The classroom & on-line data of Driver Safety Class participants in Montana for 2017-

- 1st quarter: 43 classroom classes with 543 participants and 194 on-line participants.
- 2nd quarter: 57 classroom classes with 682 participants and 186 on-line participants.

MT DRIVE (3) Fran Penner-Ray reported that since 1979 nearly 14,000 drivers have participated in Montana DRIVE summer workshops. This in-vehicle advanced training is designed to replicate situation driving risks. Skills training includes skid control, controlled braking, evasive steering, cornering, off road recovery. Training is open to licensed drivers - adults and teens alike. Attendance is encouraged for local government and state agency staff, bus and EMS drivers, private business drivers and the public. The program is offered for 10 weeks during the summer. Final numbers for 2017 will be available at the end of August.

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DRIVE/>

BIKEWALK MT (3) Melinda Barnes has conducted bicycle skills training in three towns to date in 2017: Hamilton, Glasgow and Helena. She also conducted a skills and bicycle laws training for the Helena Police Department. A concern she has is that through these trainings it was apparent that bicycle laws are not known. Many thought they had to ride to the far right of roadway. Melinda defined practicable as meaning as far to right as possible as the bicyclist deems safe for them to ride based on the conditions of the road and if no rideable bike lane or shoulder.

MMRS (3) Bob Walker shared that MMRS has Basic classes registered through August and has an Advanced class scheduled for September 12. Requirements needed for taking Advanced class is Basic Skills and Basic II. A concern is that more awareness is needed to promote classes for next year.

<http://motorcycle.msun.edu/index.htm>

Media Campaigns (3) – Partner Creative was hired to conduct a CLRS campaign for the Great Falls District. The campaign started around April 15 when construction started. The campaign consisted of newspaper articles, radio spots, TV interviews, Facebook ads, and Instagram. There was a new rumble strip webpage developed to help educate on why rumbles are a proved safety countermeasure. The website is here:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/rumblestrips/>

A new webpage has been developed that shows all the planned, under design, under construction and open roundabouts in the state. Here is the link to this map:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/roads/roundabouts/locations.shtml>

In addition to the roundabout map, a new brochure has been developed; the brochure was sent out to all the districts and various trainers that requested them.

Operation Life Saver (3) Clark Wheeler reported they have presented at 22 drivers education classes between May - July. Railroad trespassing is a safety concern that needs to be incorporated in safety messaging. Nationally there have been 28 fatalities on railroads, 3 of which have been in Montana. School bus driver information is being gathered to develop focused safety training. Fran Penner -Ray offered to provide information OPI has with Operation Life Saver. Clark also noted that rail road industry has reached out to photographers regarding safety issues involved with trespassing on railroad tracks.

<https://oli.org/education-resources/pedestrian-safety>

Rail Conference is planned for August with the focus being collaboration and information on requirements of funding rail crossings and quiet zones. Roy Peterson will report out in future meeting.

Share the Road with Trucks (3) Dennis Hult reported the program is conducted at high schools by Motor Carrier Services (MDT) in partnership with Motor Carriers of Montana. Several schools have participated in this Teens and Trucks programs in 2017, which gives the students an opportunity to sit in a truck to see and understand the perception of drivers of large trucks and what they cannot see on the roadways around their truck. In addition to the live truck demonstration a video and question and answer is also completed in the classroom.

Dennis also reported that continued resolution kept the grant programs that MCS uses from being awarded. However, due to the passing of an appropriations Bill, Montana has now received a full grant award, which includes additional funding.

Variable Message Signing (VMS) (3) - Brandy Hamilton shared the approved text for VMS that will be alternated with other appropriate safety messages, such as *Good Vehicle Maintenance Helps Prevent Wildfires, Help Prevent Wildfires-Secure Towing Chains, Look Twice Motorcycles Are Everywhere, Share the Road- Motorcycles and Bikes Traveling MT HWYS*

STEP (5) Labor Day Mobilization Click or Get Pulled Over is planned August 16- September 4. New media campaign, *Reason for Using Your Seat Belt* is planned. It is similar to *Reason Not To Drink and Drive: Cost of a DUI* brochure.

Other -

HB 471 -AN ACT ALLOWING A DRIVER TO EXCEED A SPEED LIMIT WHEN IN A PASSING ZONE. What are the signing requirements and who sponsored bill? Carl Peil requested discussion based on the law that was enacted that reads 'AN ACT ALLOWING A DRIVER TO EXCEED A SPEED LIMIT WHEN IN A PASSING ZONE; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-303, MCA.'

The amendment reads: 61-8-303 (2) A vehicle subject to the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) ~~traveling on a two-lane road~~ may exceed the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) by 10 miles an hour in order to overtake and pass a vehicle and return safely to the right-hand lane under the following circumstances:

- ___ (a) while traveling on a two-lane road; and
- ___ (b) in a designated passing zone.

Carl Peil asked Roy Peterson if MDT planned to sign designated passing zones. Additionally there is confusion about the meaning of two separate cautionary signage on US 12 from Helena to Three Forks "Passing Lanes

Ahead 2 miles' Passing Lanes Ahead in 2 miles'.(To be confirmed) The sponsor was Kelly Flynn from Townsend.

- Roy said he would confirm if other passing lanes around the state has similar 'Passing Lane Ahead' type signing.

HB 415 - REVISE TRANSPORTATION LAWS REGARDING TRAVEL IN RIGHT LANE. Roy provided an update of the recent legislation that simply states what it means. This codifies that vehicles must travel in the right-hand lanes, with the typical exceptions of passing, moving over for emergency vehicles, hazards, allowing others to merge and following traffic control. Roy said that signage currently used on Capitol exit that directs through traffic to use left lane will be removed upon completion of the project.

Announcements-

- Annual Safety Meeting- October 11 &12

Next Meeting & Adjournment

- August 23, 2017

Strategies Handout http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/plans/chsp/RD_IC_STRATEGIES_STEPS_HANDOUT.PDF