



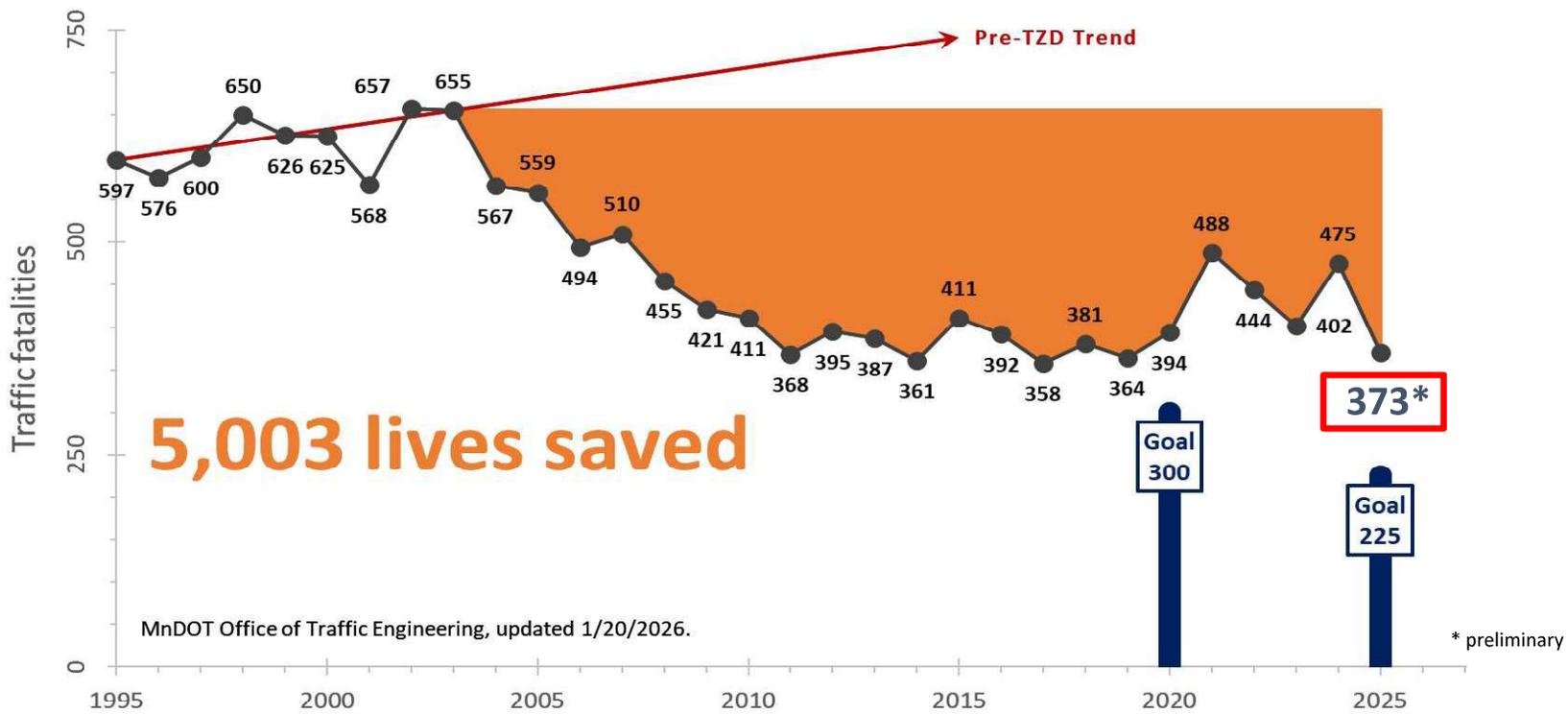
MINNESOTA

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
TRAFFIC SAFETY

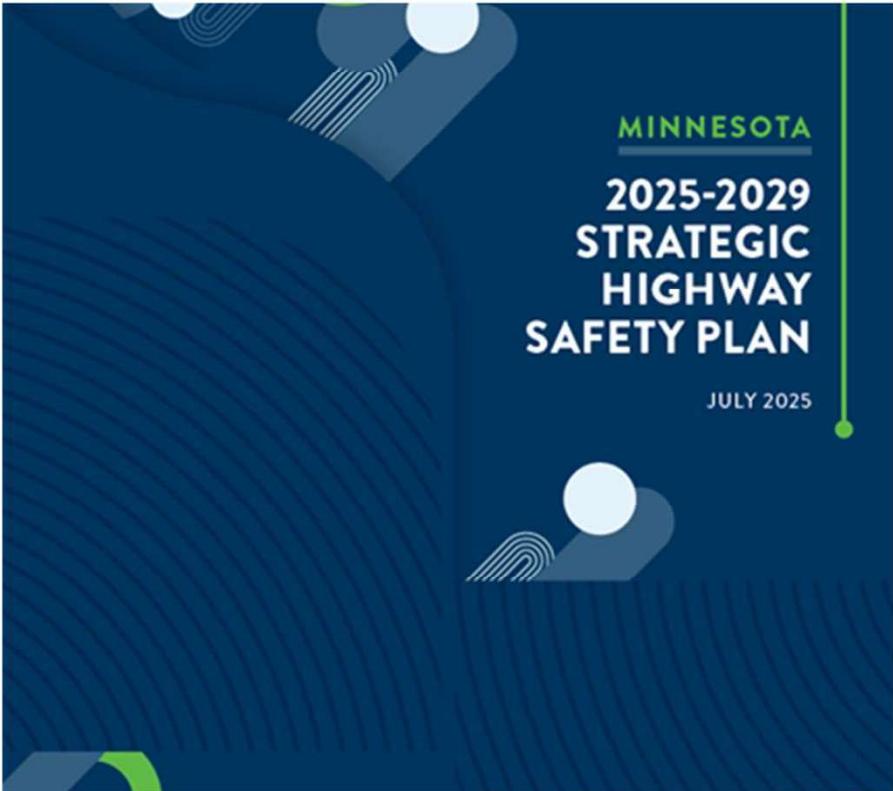
Minnesota Senate Committee on Transportation

Monday, March 16, 2026

We are Saving Lives



Strategic Highway Safety Plan



<p>Safe System Approach Elements Addressed: Safe Road Users and Safe Roads</p>	
TACTIC	LEADERSHIP
<p>1.1: In collaboration with Minnesota Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, ensure enforcement crash reporting aligns with the attribute values in the 2024 edition of the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria.</p>	
<p>STRATEGY 2: Improve Education and Awareness to Reduce Inattentive Driving</p> <p><i>We are Saving Lives</i></p> <p>Safe System Approach Elements Addressed: Safe Road Users</p>	
TACTIC	LEADERSHIP
<p>2.2: Increase funding to support public awareness prior to inattentive driving enforcement campaigns, and to support public outreach featuring the campaign's results once the campaign has concluded.</p>	
<p>STRATEGY 3: Strengthen Enforcement Tools and Criminal Penalties to Reduce Inattentive Driving</p> <p>Safe System Approach Elements Addressed: Safe Road Users</p>	
TACTIC	LEADERSHIP
<p>3.2: Identify new funding for law enforcement tools and equipment needed to identify offenders and effectively enforce Minnesota's distracted and careless driving laws.</p>	
<p>3.4: Strengthen criminal penalties for distracted driving causing severe injuries or death through 1) legislative changes to the Criminal Vehicular Homicide and Criminal Vehicular Operation statutes to specifically include "use of an electronic device while driving," and 2) supporting an increase in the severity levels for Criminal Vehicular Homicide and Criminal Vehicular Operation within the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Grid.</p>	
<p>STRATEGY 4: Support the Advancement of Technology Improvements to Reduce Inattentive Driving</p> <p>Safe System Approach Elements Addressed: Safe Road Users</p>	
TACTIC	LEADERSHIP
<p>4.1: Fund pilot program coupled with media outreach for the use of telematic monitoring systems to provide real-time feedback on inattentive and other high-risk driving behaviors to encourage mid-driving correction and crash prevention.</p>	

“(Minnesota is) commended for developing this action-oriented Strategic Highway Safety Plan and for taking an aggressive approach to reducing fatal traffic crashes.....This plans aligns closely with USDOT’s top priority of safety and reducing the estimated 34,345 fatal traffic crashes in the United States in 2024.”

- Federal Highway Administration

Implementation of State and Local Funds

\$14M^{SM1}

awarded for infrastructure, enforcement, and education projects across the state

Rural High-Risk Roadways

- Dynamic Speed Signs
 - Roundabouts
 - J-turn study
- Transverse rumbles



Safe Road Zones

- Public awareness/education campaigns
- Additional enforcement
- Portable radar trailers
- Road safety audits



Safe Road Coalitions

Community-based partnerships dedicated to eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries



JOYRIDE

A sober ride home program providing a reliable, alcohol-free transportation option



Impact Teen Driver

Changing the traffic safety culture with young drivers and passengers



Buckle Up for a Buck

Rewarding seat belt use, raising awareness, creating positive community engagement



CarFit Program

Improving how older drivers "fit" in their vehicle for maximum safety and visibility

Traffic Safety Violations Disposition

1.2M case records from 2017 – 2022

reviewed citations related to speed, impairment, distraction, and belt use

- Total traffic citations steeply declined
- Fatal crashes increased while most citations decreased
 - Conviction rates, including impairment, were high
 - Fines and fees tended to have high payments overall
- Citation counts were influenced by the pandemic, policy, and targeted campaigns

Roadside Oral Fluid Testing Pilot

- Goal to improve screening for impaired driving at the time of enforcement
- Coordinated with 41 law enforcement agencies across 36 counties
- Recommend approval of both tested instruments for preliminary screening



Key Policy Priorities

Adopt a Framework Policy

- Endorse and support the MN DOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan and DPS-OTS Triennial Highway Safety Plan
- Provide the necessary authority, resources, and staff to fully implement these plans

Address Critical Needs

- Speed reduction
- Distraction
- Impairment
- Vulnerable roadway users



E-bikes and e-motos

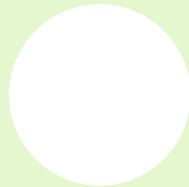
Emerging Issues



Traffic Incident Management



Lane splitting and lane filtering



Speed safety cameras



Connected and automated vehicles



“I’ve had the privilege of seeing how essential collaboration, partnerships, and dialog is to make meaningful change.....Not only are we making real progress towards zero deaths, I am also able to bring these discussions and work back to AMC and my other county colleagues.”

~ Anoka County Commissioner Julie Jeppson,
Council Member representing the Association of
Minnesota Counties



“...on behalf of the pupil transportation industry in Minnesota, we appreciate the opportunity to have a stake in the conversations.”

~ Nick Martini, Council Member representing
Minnesota Assoc. for Pupil Transportation

The Power of Partnership



“The new signage in our area will be fantastic for the next decade or more. The pedestrian crossing signs have been installed and are quite the eye-catcher in our small town. It’s amazing how a small upgrade to a crosswalk is the talk of the town!”

~ Community feedback for Safe Road Zone



“It’s great to see the cross-discipline collaboration the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety has further brought together. Being able to learn about the differing perspectives greatly improves the success of the Council. Simply stated, another great organization and effort leading Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.”

~ Andrew Witter, Council Member representing the
Minnesota County Engineers Association



“The Traffic Safety Advisory Council has been instrumental in connecting traffic safety advocates across Minnesota to advance initiatives that promote safe driving and keep advocates informed on upcoming efforts by our state agencies.”

~ Josie Donohue, Council Member representing AAA
– The Auto Club Group

At-a-Glance: Council Membership

- Office of Traffic Engineering, DOT*
- Office of Traffic Safety, DPS*
- Injury and Violence Prevention Section, MDH*
- TZD communications director
- TZD program and operations director
- TZD regional coordinator
- State Patrol Chief
- State traffic safety engineer
- Law enforcement liaison
- Dept. Human Services
- Dept. of Education
- Council on Disability
- Tribal governments
- Center for Transportation Studies
- Chiefs of Police Assoc.
- Sheriffs' Assoc.
- Safety Council
- AAA
- Trucking Assoc.
- Insurance Federation
- Assoc. of MN Counties
- Judicial outreach liaison
- City Engineers Assoc.
- League of MN Cities
- County Engineers Assoc.
- Bicycle Alliance
- Vulnerable road user reps (2)
- Operation Lifesaver
- Driver and Traffic Safety Education Assoc.
- Assoc. for Pupil Transportation
- State Trauma Advisory Council
- MPO
- Contractors
- Office of Emergency Medical Services
- Victim advocacy organization

**Council Chairs*

Thank You!

Brian Sorenson

ACTS Chair

brian.sorenson@state.mn.us

Mike Hanson

ACTS Vice Chair

michael.hanson@state.mn.us

Catherine Diamond

ACTS Vice Chair

catherine.diamond@state.mn.us

Paul Aasen

Policy and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee Chair

paul.aasen@mns.org