THE SAFE SYSTEM: MAKING WASHINGTON ROADS SAFER FOR ALL

Mark McKechnie, Director of External Relations, WTSC

Joint Transportation Committee, Washington Legislature

May 19, 2022
NHTSA PROJECTS SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN FATAL CRASHES IN US, 2021 (BASED ON PRELIMINARY DATA)

Fatality counts increased:

- Urban/rural collector roads: +20%
- Urban arterials and rural interstates: +15%
- Multi-vehicle crashes: +21%
- Crashes involving large trucks: +13%
- 35-44 yr. olds: +15%
- Ages 65 and older: +14%
- Females: +12%
- Pedestrians: +13%
- Drivers: +12%

Source: Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Sub-categories in 2021, NHTSA, May 2020
Consistent with trends across the country, Washington has experienced alarming increases in serious and fatal crashes.
Washington Traffic Serious Injuries

*Crash Data Portal as of 5/5/2022

Bar chart showing the number of serious injuries from traffic crashes in Washington from 2002 to 2021.*
Washington Traffic Fatalities

*WA Coded Fatal Crash Files as of 5/5/2022
Washington Pedestrian Fatalities

*Crash Data Portal as of 5/16/2022

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington Traffic Fatalities Involving Impaired Drivers

- 2016: 277
- 2017: 271
- 2018: 255
- 2019: 241
- 2020: 274
Washington Traffic Fatalities Involving Speeding Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>182</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>152</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>173</td>
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NATIONAL AND STATE PERSPECTIVES

- Stephanie Shaw, Safety Advocate, National Transportation Safety Board
- John Milton, State Safety Engineer, WSDOT
- Dongho Chang, State Traffic Engineer, WSDOT
- Mark McKechnie, WTSC
APPLYING SAFE SYSTEM APPROACHES IN WASHINGTON

Safe behaviors are necessary
Humans are vulnerable
Safety relies upon redundancy
Safer People

Encourage safe, responsible behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize their ability to reach their destination unharmed.
Safer Speed

Promote safer speeds in all roadway environments through:

- thoughtful, context-appropriate roadway design and speed limits
- *targeted education and outreach campaigns*
- enforcement
WASHINGTON CULTURE IS ROOTED IN POSITIVE TRAFFIC SAFETY BEHAVIORS

Surveys show:

- Most people (94%) wear seat belts.
- Most people (78%) do not drive after drinking.
- Most people (85%) do not drive after using cannabis.
- Most drivers (91%) keep their focus on the road.
Most Washingtonians (74%) agree the only acceptable number of deaths on our roadways is ZERO.
Proactive tools should be used to identify and address safety issues in the transportation system, rather than waiting for crashes to occur and reacting afterwards.
Starting May 23rd

“Together We Get There” education spots will be running throughout the summer on TV, radio, streaming, and social media

$1M PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN 2022
WE DRIVE DISTRACTION FREE
WE BUCKLE OUR SEAT BELTS
WE DRIVE SOBER (OR AVOID DRIVING)
WE WATCH OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER
WE SHARE THE ROAD
Questions
Thank You

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