

Texas Department of Transportation

SCOHTS-SM State Report

August 2016

Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Texas experienced a slight decrease in the number of motor vehicle traffic fatalities and serious injuries (Incapacitating A) in 2015.

	2014	2015	Percent increase/decrease
Fatalities	3,536	3,531	0%
Fatality Rate (100M VMT)	1.46	1.43	- 2 %
Serious Injuries	17,132	17,011	0%
Serious Injury Rate (100M VMT)	7.05	6.90	- 2 %

Texas Traffic Safety Task Force

In 2015, Texas formed a Traffic Safety Task Force to collaborate with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to identify best practice recommendations and new ideas in an effort to achieve the goal of reducing the number of deaths and crashes on Texas roads. The task force includes members from state and federal transportation agencies, law enforcement, judicial organizations, automotive partners, construction contractors, traffic safety organizations, energy companies, trucking and rail industry, metropolitan planning organizations and public university research centers.

In June 2016, the Texas Traffic Safety Task Force released their recommendations in a report entitled, "Solutions for Saving Lives on Texas Roads." The Texas Traffic Safety Task Force recommendations focused on highway safety engineering improvements and driver behavior education and enforcement solutions. The highway safety engineering improvements include installation of concrete and cable median barriers, rumble strips, urban intersection improvements, high friction surface treatment on curves, highway and bridge widenings, and Traffic Management Systems. The recommendations for driver behavior education and enforcement include expanding Texas driver safety education and outreach campaigns geared toward impaired driving, teen drivers, safety belt use, distracted driving, motorcyclists, pedestrians and work zone safety.

The Texas Traffic Safety Task Force developed the following five-year plan to reduce fatalities and crashes on Texas roadways. Cumulative potential lives saved are based on the five-year to 20-year service life of highway safety engineering improvements and the estimated impact of five years of driver behavior education and enforcement campaigns.

5-Year Safety Improvement Plan	Potential Lives Saved Over Service Life	Investment (millions)	Potential Cumulative Benefit (billions)	Potential Return per \$1 spent
HIGHWAY SAFETY ENGINEERING				
Rumble Strips	850-900	\$360	\$4.3	\$12
Urban Intersections	50-100	\$313	\$1.3	\$4
High-friction Surface Treatments	25-50	\$100	\$0.2	\$2
Median Barriers	400-700	\$590	\$2.3	\$4
Modernize Bridge Rail	10-50	\$70	\$0.2	\$2
Widen Narrow Highways and Bridges	200-300	\$636	\$1.3	\$2
Traffic Management Systems	500-900	\$300	\$17.1	\$57
DRIVER BEHAVIOR EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT				
Safety Belt Campaign	175-650	\$156	\$2.1	\$13
Impaired Driving Safety Campaign	300-450	\$49	\$1.7	\$35
New Traffic Safety Campaign	100-275	\$116	\$1.0	\$9
Motorcycle Safety Campaign	75-125	\$38	\$0.4	\$11
High School Education Campaign	50-125	\$15	\$0.6	\$37
TOTAL	2,735-4,625	\$2.7 B	\$32.5 B	\$12

Solutions for Saving Lives on Texas Roads can be accessed at the following link:

<http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/trafficsafety/saving-lives.pdf>

Systemic Highway Safety Engineering Programs

Texas has implemented a systemic highway safety engineering program that focuses on three of the critical crash types that have been identified in the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (run-off the road, intersection and head-on crashes).

The Systemic Widening Program provides additional paved surface width on highways that have an existing width less than 24 feet on rural highways with high risk factors relating to traffic volumes, lane configuration, truck traffic and roadway alignment.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) worked with the FHWA to conduct an Intersection Safety Improvement Plan (ISIP), which identified low cost countermeasures at urban intersections in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. TxDOT worked with the FHWA to expand the ISIP to the other metropolitan regions in Texas.

Texas is in the process of completing a Systemic Barrier program which will provide concrete or cable median barriers on highways that have high risk factors relating to traffic volumes and median widths.

In addition to these programs, Texas is considering Systematic Rumble Strips and Systemic Curve Improvement programs to reduce the number and severity of run-off the road and head-on crashes.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Texas will update our Strategic Highway Safety Plan in accordance with the new FAST act requirements by August 2017.

Highway Safety Improvement Program

During this past fiscal year, Texas let to contract, 580 highway safety improvement projects totaling over \$325 million. We also programmed 671 new highway safety improvement projects totaling over \$182 million. The projects generally focused on the following types of work:

- Barriers
- Curve Improvements
- Grade Separations
- Intersection Improvements
- Rumble Strips
- Off-System Improvements
- Widening Highways

Crash Records Information System

TxDOT's Crash Reporting and Analysis for Safer Highways (CRASH) component of the state's Crash Records Information System (CRIS). is a web-based application that allows law enforcement officers to enter crash information electronically from the field or their office via the secure, public internet. Since CRASH implementation, user-friendly screens and enhancements have further reduced the amount of time required for an officer to produce a crash report. As of June 2016, 87.5% of the state's crash report volume is being submitted electronically.

Traffic Safety Program

Our Click it or Ticket safety belt enforcement and education program continues to promote safety belt use in Texas. In 2015, Texas achieved a 90.47% compliance rate, our 10th year in a row to achieve higher than 90%.

Texas continues to promote safety through our statewide traffic safety campaigns:

- “Talk, Text, Crash” distracted driving program,
- “Share the Road” motorcycle safety campaign that includes radio and TV public service announcements, billboards, internet messages and decals,
- “Drink. Drive. Go to Jail” impaired driving campaign,
- “Click it or Ticket” safety belt campaign,
- “Be Safe Drive Smart” public education campaign in the oil and gas production regions of the state urging motorists to drive a safe speed, give trucks space on our roadways, pass carefully and avoid texting while driving.

In order to bring the critical safety issue of the number of traffic fatalities to the public's attention, Texas continued a new awareness campaign displaying on dynamic message signs statewide the year to date number of fatalities on all Texas roadways. Texas posts the traffic fatality count message along with a traffic safety message for a week every month. The year to date fatality count is also displayed on a scrolling banner on the TxDOT website. This display is updated daily.