



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Jon Schermann, TPB Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Safety Schedule Update, Safety Study Contract Extension, and Media Briefing Sheet
DATE: February 26, 2020

This memo offers a proposed schedule of safety-related agenda items for the Technical Committee and the Transportation Planning Board, including the presentation of safety study findings/recommendations and the next round of annual PBPP highway safety targets. It also describes the soon-to-be-executed regional safety study contract extension with additional scope items as well as a recently developed media briefing sheet.

SCHEDULE OF SAFETY BRIEFINGS TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Table 1 shows the current schedule for how the safety study results as well as other safety-related agenda items (such as the next round of annual regional highway safety targets) will be addressed by the TPB and the Technical Committee.

Table 1: Tentative CY 2020 Safety Agenda Items*

Month	Technical Committee	Transportation Planning Board
April 2020	Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) update/recommendations	Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) recommendations
May 2020	Safety Study Update with preliminary findings and recommendations	
June 2020	Safety Study Update with findings and recommendations	Safety Study Update with findings and recommendations
September 2020	Safety Study Update Methodology for PBPP Highway Safety Targets State DOT Safety Target Updates	Safety Study Update
October 2020	State DOT Safety Target Updates Staff Proposed Regional Safety Targets	
November 2020	Staff Recommended Regional Safety Targets	Staff Recommended Regional Safety Targets
December 2020		Adopt Regional Safety Targets

* Note: The Police Chiefs Committee will be offered the opportunity to provide highway safety recommendations for inclusion in the overall package of recommendations to the TPB. If they do this, they will be added to the Technical Committee and TPB agendas as appropriate.

It is anticipated that the proposed schedule outlined above will be updated based on feedback from the Technical Committee and TPB members.

ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY OUTCOMES – CONTRACT EXTENSION

The contract with Cambridge Systematics, the consultant conducting the Regional Safety Study, has been extended from February 28, 2020 to November 30, 2020. This will ensure that TPB staff will have consultant support through the roll out process and will enable additional crash data analysis.

The additional scope items are outlined below.

ADDITIONAL SCOPE ITEMS

The items were added to the scope as part of the contract extension:

- Meeting Support: this covers the development of additional PowerPoint slide decks (with speaking notes) and staff support for the several Safety Subcommittee, Technical Committee, Citizen’s Advisory Committee and Transportation Planning Board meetings during the extended period of performance.
- Emphasis Area Analysis: this covers one more “deep dive” analysis in addition to the three already conducted (pedestrians, intersections, and major arterials).
- Safety Events: this covers planning support and facilitation for two safety events.
- Data Update and Training: this enables the consultant to update our new regional crash database with crash data for 2018. It also covers training TPB staff on how to input crash data for future years and how to generate analysis results.

SAFETY BRIEFING SHEET FOR THE MEDIA

TPB staff have received multiple media inquiries about the regional safety study. To help frame the stories and provide context, staff has developed the attached media briefing sheet for our Communications Office to use when responding to future media inquiries.

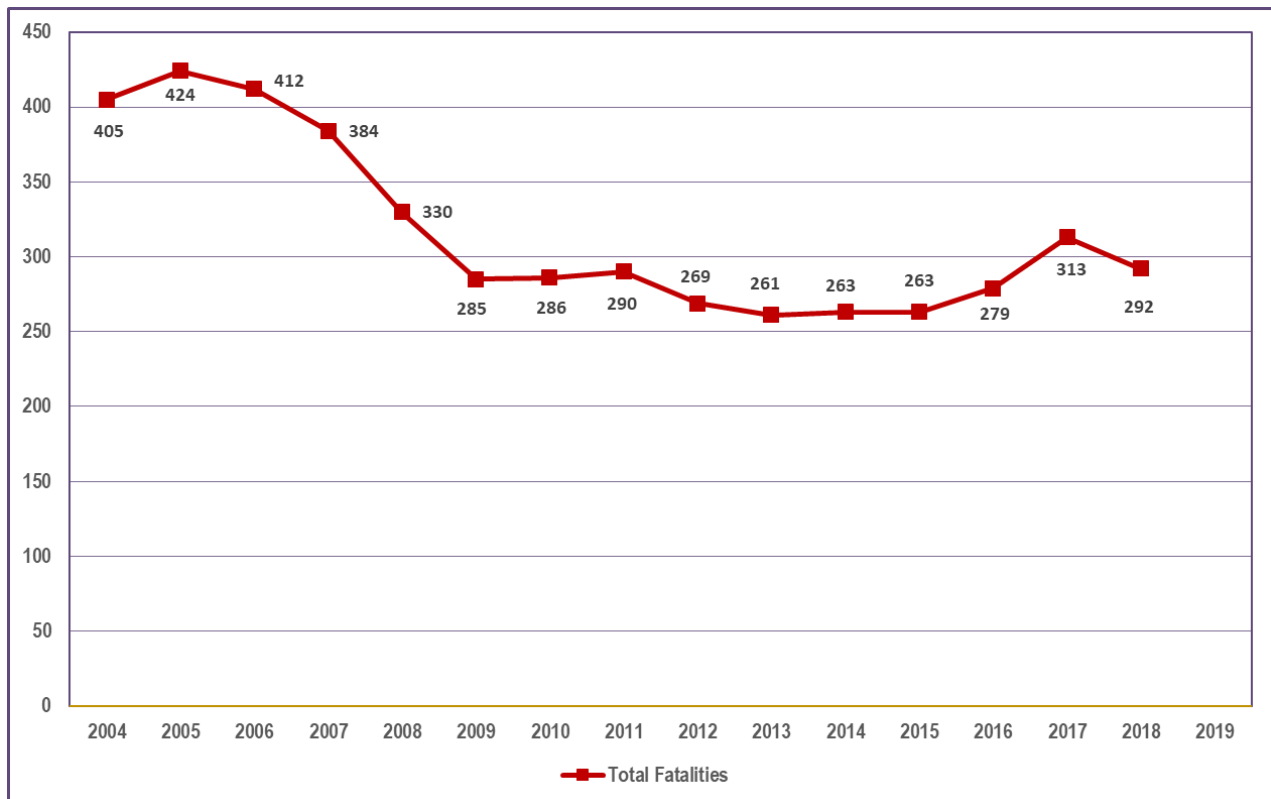


TPB Safety Activities Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

Fatalities resulting from roadway crashes in metropolitan Washington have increased in recent years (see Figure 1). The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is concerned about roadway safety in the region and has intensified efforts to improve safety outcomes.

FIGURE 1: Metropolitan Washington: Total Annual Roadway Fatalities 2004-2018



TPB SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Since 2002, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' [Street Smart](#) program has sought to raise awareness about pedestrian and bicycle safety. The region-wide public safety campaign educates drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists about safe use of roadways in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. In addition to the Street Smart program, the TPB's Transportation Safety Subcommittee meets regularly to coordinate on safety issues with our local jurisdictions and state Department of Transportation partners

In 2019, the TPB invited the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Departments of Transportation to share their efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in the region and to solicit their ideas for what more the TPB can do to help.

In May 2019, the TPB commissioned a Regional Roadway Safety Study for the metropolitan Washington region to delve deeper into the issue.

REGIONAL SAFETY STUDY

The study is currently underway and is being advised by a panel of TPB staff and highway safety officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. All findings are being vetted through the TPB and various supporting committees. The study is expected to be released in Fall 2020.

The objectives of this study are:

- to understand the factors contributing to fatal and serious injury crashes;
- to determine where crashes on the roadway transportation network are over-represented;
- to identify and recommend proven effective solutions;
- to provide the TPB and member jurisdictions specific suggestions to improve safety; and
- to inform TPB staff's future efforts on roadway safety.

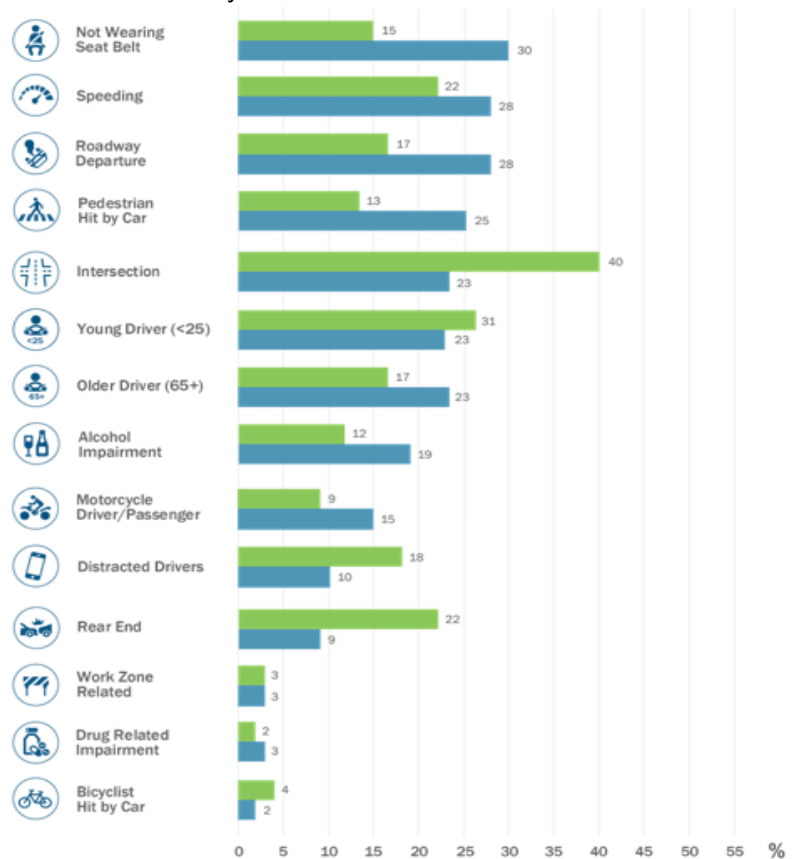
FACTORS AFFECTING ROADWAY CRASHES

Analysis of the data¹ show that people not wearing seat belts is the number one contributing factor in fatal crashes. In fact, 30 percent of fatal crashes involve someone not wearing their seat belt. The second most common factor in fatal crashes is tied between excessive speed and roadway departure. Twenty-eight percent of fatal crashes in the region involve someone speeding and 28 percent of fatal crashes involve a vehicle leaving the roadway. This is an example of two factors being related in that someone driving too fast is more likely to run off the road. The third most

Factors Affecting Roadway Crashes (2013-2017)

Note: the percentages do not add up to 100 because most crashes are affected by multiple factors - for example speeding, impairment, and not wearing a seat belt can all be factors in a single fatal crash.

■ Serious Injuries ■ Fatalities



¹ The crash data were acquired from the Maryland State Highway Administration, The Virginia Department of Transportation, the District Department of Transportation, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

common type of fatal crash occurs when a driver hits a pedestrian – this is a factor in 25 percent of fatal crashes in the region.

HOW YOU CAN HELP – TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

Everyone in our region can do something to save lives. The following are traffic safety tips from the Street Smart campaign.

If you're driving,

- Slow down and obey the speed limit.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Be careful when passing buses or stopped vehicles.
- When turning, yield to people walking and biking.
- Look for bicyclists before opening your door.
- Allow at least 3 feet when passing bikes.
- Avoid using your cell phone and never text while driving.

If you're walking,

- Cross the street at the corner and use marked crosswalks when they're available.
- Use the pushbuttons.
- Wait for the walk signal to cross the street.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Before crossing, look left, right, and left again.
- Be visible. Wear something light or reflective after dark.
- Watch out for blind spots around trucks and buses.
- Avoid using your cell phone while you're crossing the street.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signage and approach intersections with caution.

If you're biking,

- Obey signs and signals.
- Never ride against traffic.
- Ride in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars.
- Use hand signals to tell drivers what you intend to do.
- Wear a helmet.
- Use lights at night and when visibility is poor.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signs and approach intersections with caution.