



Dear Minnesotans,

We are pleased to share with you *the 2020-2024 Minnesota Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)*. The SHSP is a call to action for the state of Minnesota. We are asking our partners and ALL residents of Minnesota to act now to save lives and prevent serious injuries that result from traffic crashes.

Minnesota formalized Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) in 2003, a program that aims to eliminate traffic-related deaths through a systematic and proactive approach. Toward Zero Death’s initial launch was a great success, as Minnesota reduced traffic-related deaths while working to realize the goal of zero deaths. However, the number of traffic-related deaths have held fairly steady over the last five years. We call on ALL Minnesotans to be part of the solution to help push this trend downward once again.

Preliminary data show that there were 364 Minnesotans killed in traffic crashes in 2019. The new Minnesota SHSP sets a bold goal to reduce traffic-related deaths 225 or fewer by 2025. We all must work together in robustly implementing the SHSP strategies to change Minnesota’s existing trend line, and achieve the 2025 goal.

The 2020-2024 Minnesota SHSP identifies priority strategies and tactics to reduce the number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. It includes countermeasures that Engineers can deploy, programs for Educators and Enforcement to implement, and strategies for the Emergency Medical Service community; all intended to save lives and prevent serious injuries that result from traffic crashes. But that is not all, there is a role for Everyone to help implement this plan. Legislators are encouraged to enact new laws that will support the TZD program; policymakers and local elected officials are being asked to make safety investments a priority; local safety advocates should tailor safety messages to reach communities and groups that are experiencing disproportionate risks; and ALL of us can make a difference in our community by being responsible on our roadways.

If you’re not sure how you can help Minnesota achieve our vision of zero traffic-related deaths fatalities, visit the [TZD website \(http://www.minnesotatzd.org/\)](http://www.minnesotatzd.org/) and reach out to your Regional TZD Coordinator and Law Enforcement Liaison. They would love to hear from you and will help you find a way to get involved and make a difference.

By implementing the strategies in this SHSP, we can create a culture in which traffic-related deaths and serious injuries are no longer acceptable.

Sincerely,

Jan K. Malcolm, Commissioner
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health

John Harrington, Commissioner
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation