



## Advisory Council on Traffic Safety

### DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

1:00 – 4:00pm

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota  
301 S 19th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Josie Johnson Community Room (Room 180)

#### **Attendees**

Appendix A lists all Council members, staff, and invited guests who were present at the meeting.

#### **Call to Order**

Vice Chair Sorenson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

##### **Chairs' Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Sorenson welcomed members, including a special welcome to new member Richard Hansen, who will serve as the Minnesota Operations Lifesaver representative. All members and staff introduced themselves and the organization they were representing on the Council.

Chair Hanson sent his regards; he was testifying in Washington DC today on behalf of the Governors Highway Safety Association at the US House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. The hearing was in preparation for next year's Congressional reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation programs that will address behavioral safety initiatives and overall transportation spending levels.

#### **Approve Today's Agenda**

Jeppson made a motion to approve the agenda. Hosmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Approve Minutes from December 11, 2024 Meeting**

Kosluchar made a motion to approve the December 2024 minutes without change. Leuer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The final meeting minutes are available on the [December meeting webpage](#).

### **Data Dive: 2024 Preliminary Data and Motorcycle Trends**

Brian Harmon discussed trends regarding motorcycle fatalities. Except 2019, motorcycle fatalities have surpassed the number of fatalities from pedestrian, bicycle, and other vehicles every year since 2017. The top five crash types for those killed in a standard vehicle are collision with a moving motor vehicle, overturn/rollover, and collision with tree/shrubbery, ditch, and fixed object. The top five crash types for those killed on a motorcycle are collision with a moving motor vehicle, overturn/rollover, stuck deer, ditch, and curb. Motorcycles had fewer fatal collisions with fixed objects (trees, light poles, traffic barriers, etc.), but higher risks with features inherent to the roadway (curbs, ditches); motorcycles had a higher proportion of non-collision events (falling from vehicle, etc.). The top behavior factors in a fatal motorcycle crash are no helmet, alcohol, and speeding. The highest number of motorcycle fatalities occurred in the Metro region followed by East Central, then Southeast. The highest number of fatalities occur in the summer months: June, July, and August. There were 75 motorcycle fatalities in 2024, 69 in 2023, and 82 in 2022. Minnesota's mild winter weather the last few years likely contributed to a longer riding season and increased fatalities. Fatalities most commonly occurred on Saturdays and Sundays. Motorcycle fatalities in Minnesota often occur between 3:00 – 6:59 p.m (afternoon rush-hour). Over 71% of motorcycle fatalities occurred in daylight, 83.1 percent under clear skies, and 93% on clear, dry roadways. The fatality counts by age was highest for those ages 35-54 years old, and almost 89% were males and almost 53% were riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Harmon will continue to analyze motorcycle fatalities including how distraction (both drivers of the vehicles and motorcyclist) contributes to fatalities. He will also analyze a broader view of other states' statistics. Loren Hill reported that 63% of the fatalities in the last 10 years occurred on a curve. About 26% of the motorcycle fatalities did not have their motorcycle endorsement. Harmon will also find the number of vehicles broadsiding a motorcycle turning left. DPS could also look into how weather and gas prices may influence crash statistics. At this time, they are not analyzing the class of motorcycle (e.g. touring, Sport) and size of bike.

Eight fatalities and 72 serious injury motorcycle crashes occurred when the motorcyclist was hit from behind but none were at a stop condition.

### **Youth E-bike Study Coordination**

Caroline Ketcham, MnDOT and representative from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC), joined the group to provide information on ATAC and a youth e-bike study our committees are required to submit to the legislature next year.

ATAC was formed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023. ATAC is composed of 18 community members and 11 direct appointments from state agencies that serve as a central advisory body to develop active transportation goals, policies, and standards in Minnesota. These include representatives from every MnDOT district office and 7 at-large members. Members also include active transportation and bicycling advocates, local elected officials, retailers and manufacturers of electric-assisted bicycles, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Commerce, K-12 educators with experience in active transportation safety training, medical professionals and emergency medical technicians, the State Patrol and local law enforcement, as well as consumer protection advocates. The committee would also like a few members of the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety to be a part of a working group.

The 2024 Transportation Housing, and Labor Omnibus Budget Bill requested a study on youth e-bike safety. The bill requires the commissioners of DPS and MnDOT to work with ATAC and ACTS to conduct a study and develop recommendations on the operation of electric-assisted bicycles by persons under the age of 18 to increase the safety of riders, other cyclists, and all other users of active transportation infrastructure. The report is due February 1, 2026. Details are available in [Section 133 \(line 128.3\) of the bill](#).

The study must address and analyze the following topics: (1) identify challenges to the safe operation of electric-assisted bicycles by those under the age of 18; (2) evaluate existing legal authority for strategies, practices, and methods to reduce the availability of modifications to the electric motor of electric-assisted bicycles; (3) make recommendations on whether to change state law to improve electric-assisted bicycle safety on roads, trails, and other areas where safe operation of electric-assisted bicycles is needed; and (4) propose educational and public awareness campaigns to educate the public about electric-assisted bicycles, promote their safe operation, and raise awareness of their unique characteristics when operating on roadways.

ATAC will lead the effort with support from ACTS. The ATAC team is currently refining the scope of the project and beginning the process to select a contractor. To guide the project team, a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will be formed. The PAC will help develop the research framework, review literature, and review of research questions, methodology, scope, and populations of focus. The final research outcomes and report for next steps should be developed in coordination with PAC and relevant approvals of stakeholders before final report is shared with the legislature. Heidi Schallberg, Kyle Shelton, Michael Wojcik, and Jim Kosluchar volunteered to join the PAC. Cheryl Quinn offered to serve as backup, if needed.

It was asked if scooters would be part of the study. The study will only include Electric-assisted bicycles, as defined in Minnesota Statute (169.011 Subd. 27).

Caroline Ketcham was invited to attend an ACTS Policy and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee meeting.

Currently MNCrash does not differentiate between e-bike and bicycle, but the most recent Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) addresses this and the Office of Traffic Safety will capture these changes.

### **MNCrash 2.0 Crash Reporting System Modernization**

Brandon Walters, MNCrash Administrator, discussed the MNCrash 2.0 crash reporting system. The original version of MNCrash was launched in 2016 and is in need of modernization. The project's main goals include creating a robust and modern system, keep what currently works well while making enhancements, and continue collaboration with stakeholders.

The high-level requirements have been finalized for MNCrash 2.0. They will keep the same or similar flow, as much as possible and there needs to be changes to meet federal "Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria" (MMUCC) standards. They will decommission the public MNCrash website and transfer functionality to OTS' Road Safety Information Center (RSIC) and users will not need a new password and can continue pass-through credentialing. MNCrash 2.0 will be cloud-hosted and must meet MnIT's strict guidelines.

MnCrash members met with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, who is managing similar project, and gained new ideas and ways to improve Minnesota's program.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety was awarded a \$2.1 million federal NHTSA grant and the funds will cover changes related to the federal MMUCC standards. The project kick-off meeting is February 19.

MNCrash 2.0's next steps include securing supplemental funding and defining the scope of work and project execution strategies. Then they will begin the procurement process, develop a communication plan, and continue and broaden the outreach with stakeholders.

### **Policy and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee**

Paul Aasen, Chair of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, was not able to attend the meeting. In his absence, the following items were discussed.

- SF 910 was introduced in the Senate to repeal the motorcycle lane splitting law.
- A [draft of the ACTS Annual Report](#) is in the review process at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. If members have comments please share with ACTS staff.
- ACTS Chairs are still hoping to schedule a meeting with appropriate legislative committees to provide an update on traffic safety in Minnesota and rollout the ACTS Annual Report.
- Because the legislature is just getting started, no updates are available on the ACTS position statements.
- Vice Chair Sorenson shared that grant making authority was not legislated to the Office of Traffic Safety, nor ACTS, so unfortunately we are not able to move forward with the projects selected in the ACTS project solicitation process.

### **Subcommittee and Working Group Updates**

#### **Project Solicitation Process Subcommittee**

As noted above, ACTS will not be able to fund the project solicitation projects because the legislative language does not give ACTS authority to fund grants. The one exception is a project to provide funding for judges to attend the Lifesavers Conference this spring as OTS was able to find other funding for this effort. MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering (OTE) and DPS Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) are exploring other ways to fund projects that were submitted through this solicitation.

DPS intends to send an update soon to those who submitted an application through this process.

#### **Safe Roads Coalition Working Group**

Annette Larson reported on the Safe Roads Coalition Working Group. They had their first meeting and have 16 members including law enforcement liaisons, EMS representatives, regional coordinator representation, and safe road coalition members. They reviewed their current struggles with the grant applications, as well as what is going well. They also reached out to all the other regional coordinators and their safe road coalitions for additional feedback.

### **2025-2029 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Update and Discussion**

Derek Leuer gave an update on the 2025-2029 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The draft is available for comments. Derek asked ACTS members to give him comments directly as soon as possible so those comments can be addressed before it goes out for 30 day public comment period.

The SHSP team will next present to MnDOT's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). If approved by SLT, it will be made available to the public for a 30 day public comment period. After the comment period, the team

will make necessary changes and obtain signatures from the Commissioners of Health, Public Safety, and Transportation.

The SHSP team collected comments from ACTS members and addressed each of them in the plan. A document included in today's meeting packet includes all of the comments provided by each member at the December ACTS meeting along with how it was incorporated into the document. If any comments are missing, members should let the SHSP team know. One topic ACTS members asked to be addressed was adding a component on drivers education for all. It is recommended in the SHSP to have this a part of the 2026 legislative session. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Community Affairs would like to present at the June ACTS meeting on this topic; CTS will coordinate with the ACTS Executive Committee.

Currently, the SHSP indicates numerous strategies and tactics. Those that have a legislative component to them have an "L" with a green circle around them. ACTS members asked the SHSP team to summarize these in a document and forward them to the ACTS Policy and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee.

### **Council Business**

The ACTS final Mission and Vision statements were recently finalized can be found on the [ACTS webpage](#).

The [ACTS one-pager](#) was recently completed and can be found on the ACTS webpage. If members want hard copies they should contact Jackson Piper ([piper129@umn.edu](mailto:piper129@umn.edu)).

The Executive Committee is requesting an update to the Council Operating Procedures to add a section defining the budget development process. A copy of the recommended changes was included in the meeting packet. Moilanen made a motion to approve the Operating Procedures with no changes. Hartzell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

Vice Chair Sorenson opened up the floor to public comment.

Hernandez encouraged ACTS members and guests to attend the [Minnesota TZD Regional Workshops](#). Several workshops will highlight the implementation of SHSP, as well as AI and strategic approaches for their region. Hernandez also shared the new names for the MnDOT snowplows including We're Off To See The Blizzard, Snowtorious B.I.G., Plowabunga!, Anthony Sledwards, Skol Plow, Don'tcha Snow, I Came, I Thaw, I Conquered, and You're Welcome.

Leuer mentioned that there was a KARE 11 report on the new traffic cameras on a moveable trailer in South Minnetonka focusing on Highway 7. The camera can see inside vehicles and recognize if someone is distracted or not wearing their seat belt, etc. then law enforcement can act on the violations.

Leuer also mentioned that they awarded 58 projects in greater Minnesota totaling \$44.5 million for infrastructure highway safety improvement projects.

Hernandez highlighted the second [Tribal Traffic Safety Summit](#) that will be held at Prairie's Edge in Granite Falls on March 24-26, 2025. They hope to present at the summit on the Impact Teen Driver.

Calistro asked ACTS members to submit a nominations for the annual Statewide MADD Recognition Awards. Nominations are being accepted until March 14. The event will be held on Thursday, May 1 at the Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center.

**Adjourn**

Vice Chair Sorenson thanked everyone for their time, attention, and involvement in traffic safety.

Jeppson made a motion to adjourn, Kosluchar seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

The next Advisory Council on Traffic Safety meeting will be Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 1:00-4:00pm in the Josie Johnson Community Room at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on the University of Minnesota campus.

**Appendix A: Attendance: Members, Staff, and Invited Guests**

Member Name	Organization	Present		Not Present
		In-person	Virtual	
<i>Council Members</i>				
Aasen, Paul	Minnesota Safety Council			X
Ali-Mumin, Abdirahman	Representing Vulnerable Road Users			X
Bogojevic, Christina	Minnesota State Patrol	X		
Calistro, Gina	Representing Victims Advocacy Organizations	X		
Cocking, Aaron	Insurance Federation of Minnesota			X
Diamond, Catherine	Minnesota Department of Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Section	X		
Donohue, Josephine	AAA- The Auto Club Group	X		
Ferguson, Dylan	Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board		X	
Hanson, Mike	Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety	X (Craig Flynn)		
Hanson, Richard	Minnesota Operation Lifesaver		X	
Hartzell, Chris	City of Woodbury (representing League of Minnesota Cities)	X		
Hausladen, John	Minnesota Trucking Association		X	
Hernandez, Kristine	TZD Statewide Communications Director	X		
Hosmer, Pete	A+ Driving School (representing Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association)	X		
Jacobs, Robert	CentraCare (representing Minnesota Statewide Trauma Advisory Council)	X		
Jeppson, Julie	Anoka County (representing Association of Minnesota Counties)	X		
Kosluchar, Jim	City of Fridley (representing City Engineers Association of Minnesota)	X		
Larson, Annette	TZD Statewide Program and Operations Director	X		
Leidle, Reed	Safety Signs (representing contractors)	X		
Leuer, Derek	Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Traffic Safety Engineer	X		
Martini, Nick	Northstar Bus Lines (representing Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation)		X	
Meyer, Kerry	American Bar Association, State Judicial Outreach Liaison		X	

Moilanen, Michael	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (representing tribal governments)	X		
Ostgaard, Gayra	Minnesota Department of Education			X
Putzke, Becky	Law Enforcement Liaison		X	
Quinn, Cheryl	Representing Vulnerable Road Users	X		
Ramos, Michael	Washington County Sheriff's Office (representing Minnesota Sheriff's Association)	X		
Schallberg, Heidi	Met Council (representing metropolitan planning organizations)	X		
Schleck, Jessica	TZD Regional Coordinator	X		
Severson, Michele	Council on Disability		X	
Shelton, Kyle	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X (Stephanie Malinoff)		
Sorenson, Brian	Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic Engineering	X		
Tate, Jeff	Shakopee Police Department (representing Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association)	X		
Witter, Andrew	Sherburne County (representing Minnesota County Engineers Association)		X	
Wojcik, Michael	Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota			X
Young, Charles	Minnesota Department of Human Services		X	
<i>Council Staff</i>				
Dolan, Linda	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota		X	
Malinoff, Stephanie	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X		
Piper, Jackson	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X		
<i>Invited Guests</i>				
Harmon, Brian		X		
Caroline Ketcham		X		
Walters, Brandon			X	