



Minnesota Strategic Highway Safety Plan



September 5, 2007

Dear Traffic Safety Professional:

This Minnesota Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is an integral part of Minnesota's Toward Zero Death (TZD) initiative. The SHSP is fundamentally an update of the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) developed in 2004. The SHSP verified the critical emphasis areas developed in the CHSP, verified and expanded upon strategies and countermeasures and provided detailed guidance for implementation to each Area Transportation Partnership (ATP).

This plan is designed to be a framework within which road safety programs can be evaluated and selected based on their ability to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes in Minnesota. It goes one step further in disaggregating crash data down to the ATP and County levels, enabling local decision makers the ability to identify strategies and countermeasures which best fit the local environment. Strategies are organized by emphasis area and by the 4 E's (engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services). We recognize that not all of the strategies and countermeasures are immediately feasible due to legislative processes required. We believe, however, that it is important to clearly identify and document effective safety measures and benefits so that appropriate decisions can be made.

Reaching zero deaths will not happen immediately, but the SHSP sets a framework that will achieve measurable results as implementation occurs. The CHSP set a goal of less than 500 fatalities by 2008. Due to the ongoing participation of every sector: federal, state and local government; private industry and non-profit organizations; families and individuals; we met this aggressive goal in 2006. As a part of the SHSP, we have revised our intermediate goal to fewer than 400 fatalities by 2010.

The SHSP is not an end product; it is not a report that is meant to define a moment in time. This plan is a living document that will continue to evolve to help reach the goal of eliminating highway deaths. Your on-going participation and input are essential to achieve our goals.

Thank you for your commitment to safer road travel in Minnesota. With your dedicated support and assistance, we will continue to move Minnesota 'Toward Zero Deaths'.

Sincerely,

Carol Molnau
Lt. Governor/Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Michael Campion
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety