

# CHSP Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Emphasis Area Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 9-11:00 a.m.



**VISION ZERO**  
zero deaths · zero serious injuries  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

## Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, EMS Trauma Systems Manager, , Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)  
Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Planning Division- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)  
David Jacobs, Grants Bureau Chief, Planning Division, MDT  
Davida Hryszko, Cascade County Buckle Up Coordinator  
Don Smies, Injury Prevention, Richland County Health Department  
Emily Healy, Occupational Health & Safety Epidemiologist, Department of Labor & Industry (DLI)  
Erin Root, Occupation Protection Planner, MDT  
Hannah Yang, Epidemiologist, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems (EMS&TS) DPHHS  
Hillary Torres, NHTSA Region 10 Program manager  
Janet Kenny, Emphasis Area Chair & State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) Supervisor, Planning Division, MDT  
Mari Hembek, NHTSA Region 10 Deputy Director  
Mary Owen, Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line  
Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) DPHHS  
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Coordinator, Planning Division, MDT  
Robin Suzor, Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMS & TS, DPHHS  
Sheila Cozzie, SOAR/ Teen Programs Coordinator, SHTSS, Planning Division, MDT  
Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Ci-Co Health Department  
Tracie Kiesel, Tri-County Buckle Up MT Coordinator & CPS Instructor  
Wendy Olson Hansen, Flathead County Buckle Up MT & CPS Instructor

## Meeting Purpose: Status updates on activities.

### Old Business- Tracking of Current Legislative Bills

- **HB 256-** info/update needed. Revise Child Restraint Laws – Passed House transportation. Second reading was held on 2/04.
- **SB 150- Senator Sands** - Bill to strengthen MT CPS laws based on NHTSA and American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations to require children under 8 years old, weighing less than 65 pounds and under 4'9" in height to be properly restrained in appropriate child restraint and those under 13 to sit in back seat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing was set for 2/3/21.

### Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement Opportunity Leads

**Strategy 1- Opportunity 1 (S1.1):** Support efforts from safety partners and stakeholders to implement a primary seatbelt law. *Leads: Erin Root, Chad Newman*

Status Update: Rotunda Day – Canceled.

Janet Kenny checked with Capitol scheduler; noting events through February are on hold. Janet Kenny asked the Emphasis Area Team whether Traffic Safety Rotunda Day reservation should be canceled. Tracie Kiesel agreed it should be canceled given the uncertainty of future events. Steve Schmidt agreed that it be canceled. Janet again asked if anyone had other thoughts. No opposition was provided. All attending agreed. Janet will cancel the reservation.

SHTSS updated bookmark and fact sheet/ speaking bullets. No printing or distribution planned. Data Inquiries are directed to the MDT 2020 Fact Book and the 2020 CHSP. >> Opportunity to be updated.

MDT Fact Book: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/brochures/factbook.pdf>

2020 CHSP: [https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/current\\_chsp.pdf](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/current_chsp.pdf)

**S1.5:** Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts at the state and local level focusing primarily on impaired driving and secondary on unrestrained vehicle occupants and other risky driving behaviors. *Lead: Chad Newman*

Status Update: Child safety seat and seat belt citations are down 15% in 2020 from 2019, due to Covid.

May mobilization PSAs are scheduled to begin May 10. Enforcement is scheduled to run May 24-June 6.

**S1.6:** Continue to support Tribal law enforcement Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts focusing on unrestrained vehicle occupants among other risky driving behaviors. *Lead: Sheila Cozzie*

Status update: Check w/ Cozzie on last FFY numbers.

## **Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention**

**S2.1:** Sustain and grow the community-based Buckle Up Montana program. *Lead: Erin Root/ Tracie Kiesel/ Steve Schmidt/ Davida Hryszko*

Status Update: Tri-County BUMT Coordinator Tracie Kiesel continues to coordinate Alive at 25 classes and held one in-person meeting in January and continues to attend Driver's Ed classes. Tracie continues to present St Peter's Baby Series virtual classes and conduct car seat checks as requested.

Steve Schmidt, Missoula BUMT coordinator reports that 1 of 3 check stations are open and is manned by Missoula Ambulance Service. He and a tech respond to calls to install seats.

Davida Hryszko, Cascade Co BUMT coordinator hosts Zoom meetings at hospital with families & meetings at the Airman & Family Readiness Center, Malmstrom Air Force Base. Car seat installations continue at Cascade City-County Health Department (CCHD).

**S2.2** Drive Safe Missoula. *Lead: Steve Schmidt*

Status update: Steve continues to develop the online course focusing on young drivers funded by State Farm grant. The first video, *Young Drivers in Control*, has been completed. The course was planned to be included in health enhancement courses but has evolved into a video course. Once completed it will be available to teachers, home schools, and courts. will feature videos Potential distribution plans include hard copies, web listing, and social media.

**S2.3:** Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads (SOAR) Tribal community program focusing on seat belt and child passenger seat use. *Lead: Sheila Cozzie*

Status update: New SOAR teen buckle up campaign roll out is February 2. Native students from the communities are participating in poster, billboard, and radio campaign.

**S2.4:** Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program *Lead: Sheila Cozzie*

Status Update: Many programs impacted by Covid.

**S2.5:** Sustain and grow the Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program and inspection stations in Montana with increased focus on high-risk populations. *Lead(s): Erin Root/Tracie Kiesel*

Status Update: as of January 29,2021, 264 CPST/CPSI . December 2020 recertification rates : MT=59.4% compared to National rate of 47.5%. Focus for first half of year is on tech updates/ recertification and renewal courses. A needs survey has been developed identify issues to develop a plan. Work continues to coordinate limited in-person classes. Seat checks are continuing.

**S2.12:** Continue to support occupant protection mini-grant funding of community education and outreach. *Lead: Erin Root.*

Status Update: have been updated. Information on occupant program mini grants can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/planning/OP-MINI-GRANT-Q-A.pdf> Occupant Protection Mini Grants are being accepted through MDT's Webgrant system <https://fundingmt.org/index.do> Registration is required, and the funding opportunity number is: #108078- MDT Occupant Protection Mini-Grant Program.

## **Strategy 3: Improve Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Data.**

**S3.1:** Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors. *Lead(s): Janet Kenny*

It was requested that completed traffic safety research links were shared with the team. Completed MDT Research Safety Culture Research Project links that can be found at

[https://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/sub\\_listing.shtml](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/sub_listing.shtml)

#### **Safety**

- [Assessing the Effectiveness of Montana's Occupant Protection Programs](#)
- [Automatic Crash Notification: Assessing Montana's Motor Vehicle Crash and Related Injury Data Infrastructure](#)
- [Developing a Methodology for Safety Improvements on Low-Volume Roads in Montana](#)
- [Distracted and Drowsy Driving Intervention for Teen Drivers in Rural America](#)
- Proposed: [Effectiveness of Highway Safety Public Education at Montana Motor Vehicle Division and Vehicle Registration Stations by Streaming Safety Videos](#)
- [Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety: A Case Study in Lewistown, Montana](#)
- [The KEYS \(Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety\) Pilot Study: Increasing Parent Involvement in Teenage Driving Through Driver Education](#)
- [A Peer-to-Peer Traffic Safety Campaign Program](#)
- [Traffic Safety Culture](#)

**S3.2:** Continue to conduct observational seat belt surveys, local and statewide. *Lead(s): Erin Root & Mark Keeffe*  
Status Update: Local seatbelt observation surveys impacted by COVID.

**S3.3:** Child Passenger Safety Seat data collection on use and misuse of child safety restraints. *Lead(s): Erin Root/Buckle Up MT Coordinators.*

Status Update: CPS Digital Data Car Seat Check list of being explored which will gather specific child safety restraint information. A hard copy form is available that is consistent with digital system. No requirement or timeframe for implementation.

**S3.5:** Continuing to evaluate existing crash data to determine occupant restraint use, injury, and fatality rate to measure progress. *Lead(s): Mark Keeffe & Pam Langve-Davis*

Status Update: 2019 CHSP Crash Data report email sent and is posted at  
[https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020/2019\\_Crash\\_Data.pdf](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020/2019_Crash_Data.pdf)

#### **Announcements**

OPI is planning to fill the Traffic Education Director position vacated by Tara Ferriter-Smith by March.

2021 LifeSavers Conference is virtual on April 26-28. Not full days but broken up over the 3 days. Registration Fee is \$275/ea. Sessions are specific to Occupant Protection and Child Passenger Safety

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://lifesaversconference.org/\\_!!GaaboA!7X-XzuFsEZ3x2qlo5G58MPB5t8Hr260HX3mexeVyRT3K1sBrXUeWicfhF9zLDKNw\\_MU\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://lifesaversconference.org/_!!GaaboA!7X-XzuFsEZ3x2qlo5G58MPB5t8Hr260HX3mexeVyRT3K1sBrXUeWicfhF9zLDKNw_MU$)

#### **Agenda for March 2021 meeting**

##### **Old Business-**

Tracking of Legislative Bills

##### **New Business-**

**Next Meeting, March 9, 2021, @ 9 a.m.**

**Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Emphasis Area Workplan**

[https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020-SEP\\_UVO\\_EA\\_Workplan\\_Final.pdf](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020-SEP_UVO_EA_Workplan_Final.pdf)