



A Vision for Safer Highways in the Future

*Dr. Anthony Kane
Director of Engineering and Technical Services
American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials*

*Bismarck, North Dakota
November 29, 2007*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
AASHTO
THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION



Overview

- Safety Vision
- Trends - National and 5 States
- Potential Solutions and Countermeasures



A Vision of the Future – Safe Roads Create a Safe and Prosperous America

VISION

- *The country's elected leaders at the federal, state and local levels, recognizing the public health and economic threat posed by the performance of our highway system, have joined forces to reduce highway fatalities by 50% by the year 2030 toward an ultimate goal of zero deaths.*



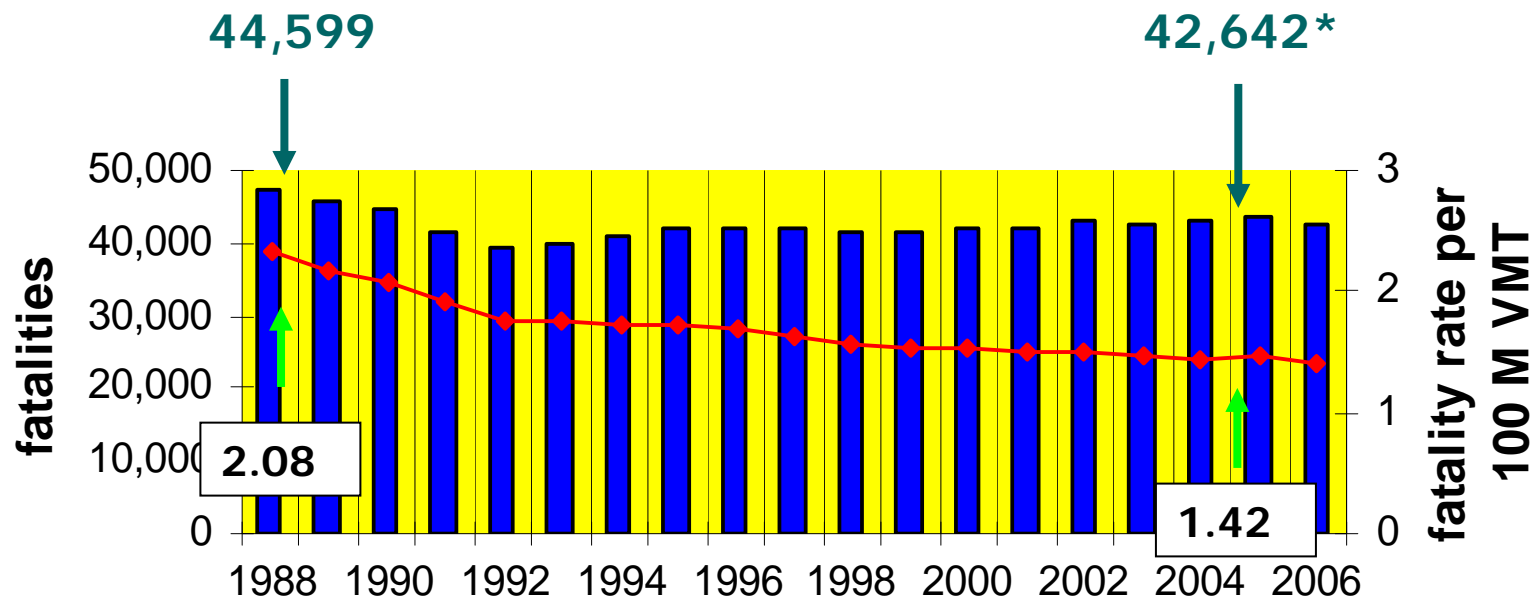
National Trends

- The number of people killed in Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashed in the US in 2006 was **42,642**. This number represents a **-2.0%** change in the number of fatalities in 2005
- More than **Half (55%)** of people killed in passenger vehicles during 2006 **were unbelted**
- Thirty-one percent (**31%**) of Fatal Crashes in 2006 were **caused by speeding**.
- **Alcohol related fatalities** in 2006 were 40% of total
- Sixty-five percent (**65%**) of motorcycle riders fatally injured **were not wearing helmets**.

U.S. Highway Safety at a Plateau

Highway Fatalities in 2005 Highest Since 1990

Some Improvements in 2006



* NHTSA FARS-- 7/2007



Five State Fatalities

	Fatalities in 2006 (Too Many)	Change from (2005-2006)
North Dakota	111	-9.8%
South Dakota	191	+2.7%
Montana	263	+4.8%
Idaho	267	-2.9%
Wyoming	195	+15%
USA	42,642	-2.0%



Five State Speed Related Fatalities

Percentage of Fatal Speed Related in 2006

○ North Dakota	40/111 =	36%
○ South Dakota	48/191 =	25%
○ Montana	112/263 =	42%
○ Idaho	83/267 =	31%
○ Wyoming	65/195 =	33%
○ USA	13,543/42,623 =	31%



Alcohol Related Fatalities (>.01)

Percentage of Fataals Alcohol Related in 2006

○ North Dakota	50/111 =	45%
○ South Dakota	80/191 =	41%
○ Montana	126/263 =	47%
○ Idaho	106/267 =	39%
○ Wyoming	80/195 =	41%
○ USA	17,602/42,642 =	41%



High Safety Payoff/ Problem Areas

- Alcohol – 40%+ of Fataals
- Speed – 30%+ of Fataals
- Belts – 50%+ of Fataals unbelted
- Motorcycles – 10% of Fataals;
double digit growth
- Large Truck involved – 12% of Fataals
- Highway Intersections – 25% of Fataals
- Highway Lane Departure – 60% of
Fataals



5 State Drunk Driving Laws

	North Dakota	South Dakota	Montana	Idaho	Wyoming
Drunk Driving Laws	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suspension of Driving Privileges	91 days	30 days	None	180 days	90 days
Increase Penalties for High BAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Open Container/ Repeat Offender Law	Both	OC	Both	Both	OC
Sanctions - Ignition Interlock/ Impound Vehicle/ License Plate Removal	Yes	None	Yes	Yes	Voluntary



5 State Laws Cont'd

	North Dakota	South Dakota	Montana	Idaho	Wyoming
Primary Seat Belt Law	No	No	No	No	No
Secondary Seat Belt Law	18 or over (F)	18 or over (F)	6 or over (A)	7 or over (A)	9 or over (A)
Universal Helmet Law	No	No	No	No	No
Motorcycle Helmets Law	<18	<18	<18	<18	<19



5 State Laws Cont'd

	ND	SD	MT	ID	WY
Speed Limit Law	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Rural (cars/ trucks)	75/75	75/75	75/65	75/65	75/75
Urban (cars/trucks)	75/75	75/V	65/65	75/65/	60-65

* V = Varies



National Innovative Policies for Safety

- President/Congress/Governors and State Legislators Adopt a Common Vision: Halve the Fatalities in 2 Decades
- President convenes a White House Conference on Highway Traffic Safety – tied to Public Health
- Safety Conscious Governors and State DOTs are showcased
- Incentives enacted to have all states have core safety laws: e.g. primary seat-belts; remove prohibition on using automated traffic enforcement and alcohol interlocks



National Innovative Policies for Safety Cont'd

- Tax Incentives for Safer Cars Faster
- Federal Support for technology such as: VII, V-V, CICAS, etc.
- Enhance Federal Highway Safety Programs and increase flexibility
- Federal data warehouse on counter-measures results
- National Peer to Peer Sessions to share successes

THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

