

**Montana Department of Transportation**



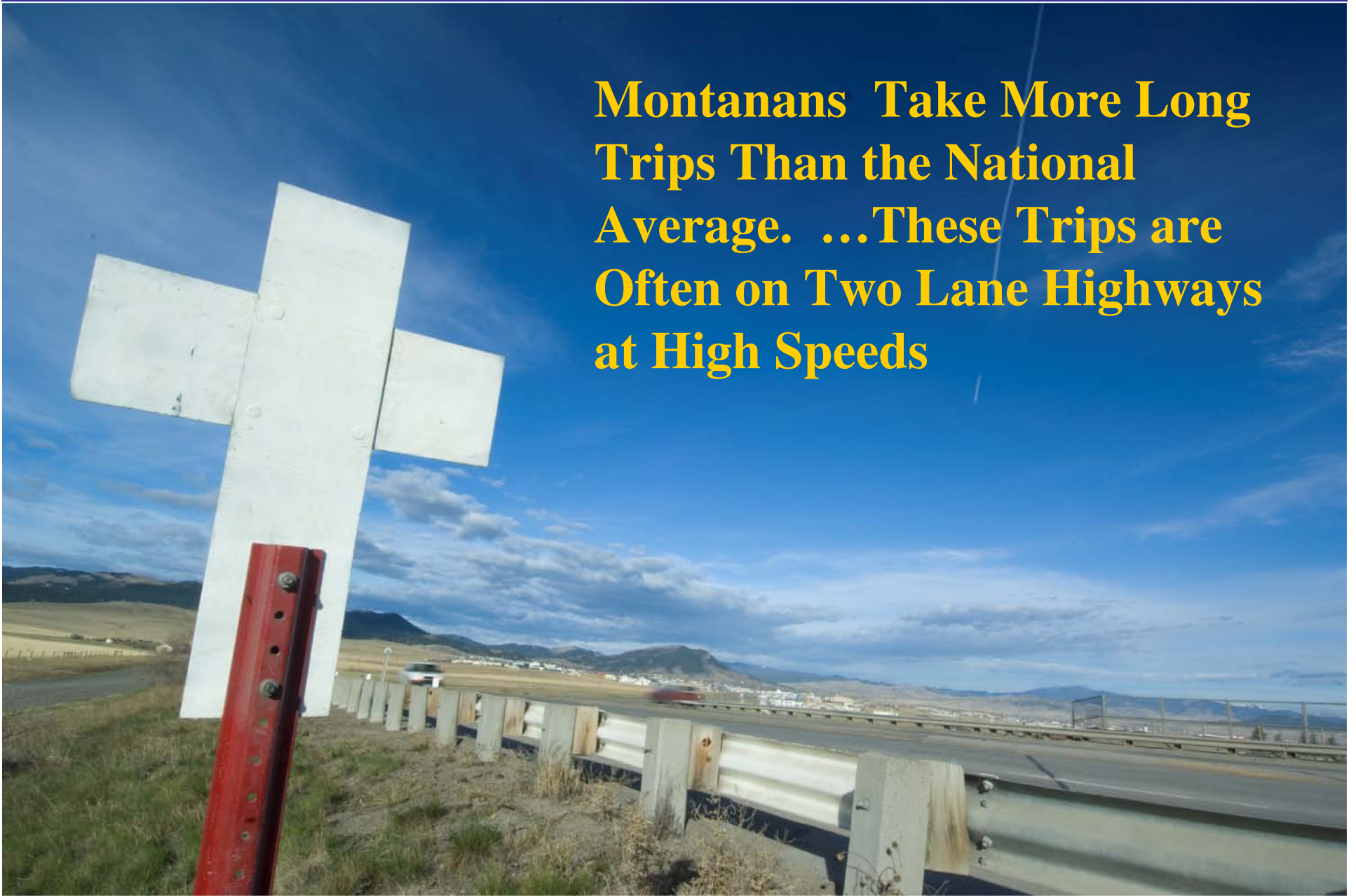
***serving you with pride***

# Enhancing Safety Through Cooperation – Lessons from the Rural West

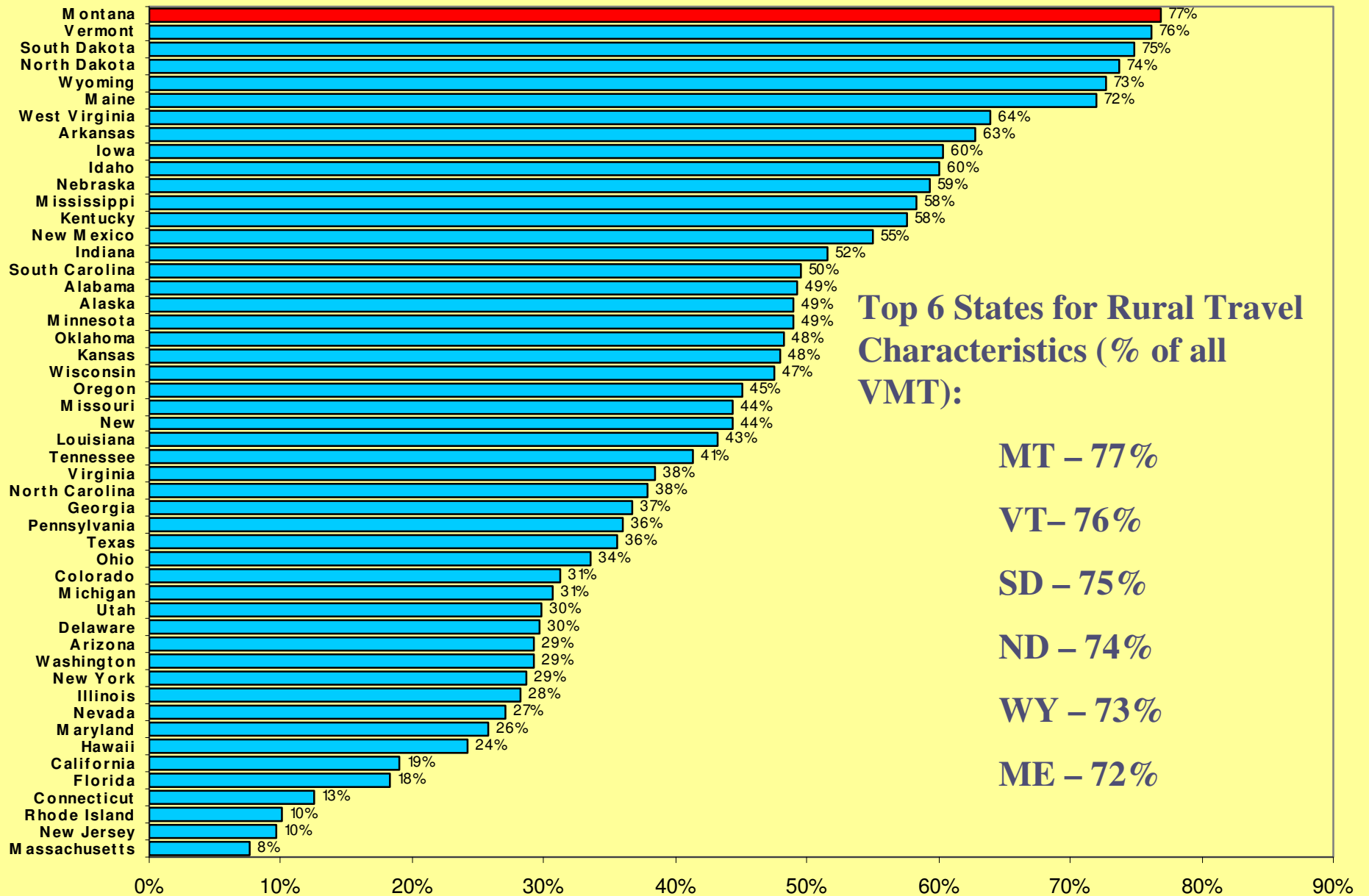
Jim Lynch, Director

Montana Department of  
Transportation

**Montanans Take More Long Trips Than the National Average. ...These Trips are Often on Two Lane Highways at High Speeds**



## Percent Rural VMT



**Top 6 States for Rural Travel Characteristics (% of all VMT):**

**MT – 77%**

**VT – 76%**

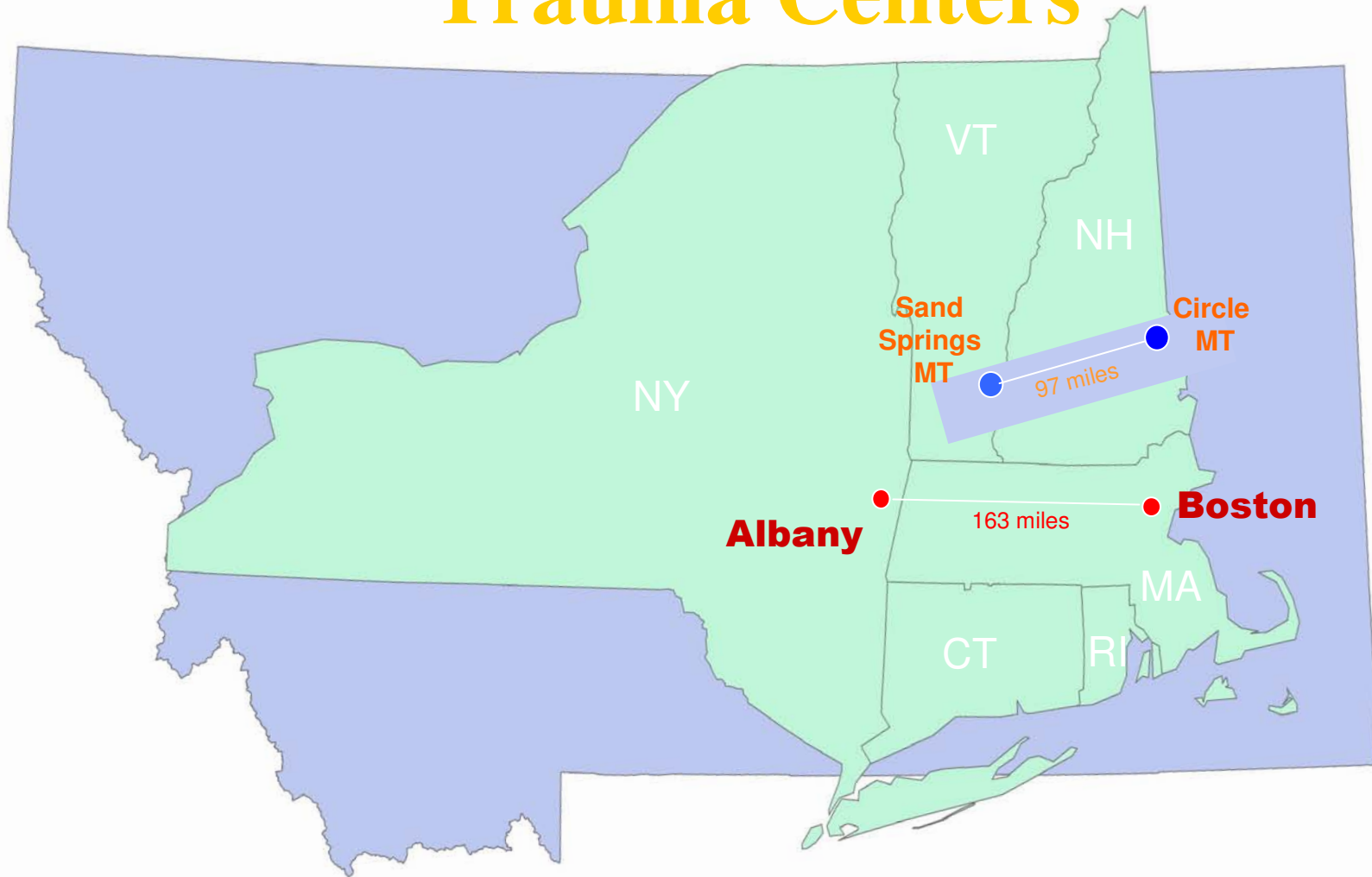
**SD – 75%**

**ND – 74%**

**WY – 73%**

**ME – 72%**

# Mileage Comparison-Distance to Trauma Centers



Albany to Boston: 163 miles

Roundtrip Sand Springs to Circle: 194 miles

# Why Rural vs. Urban Travel Makes a Difference

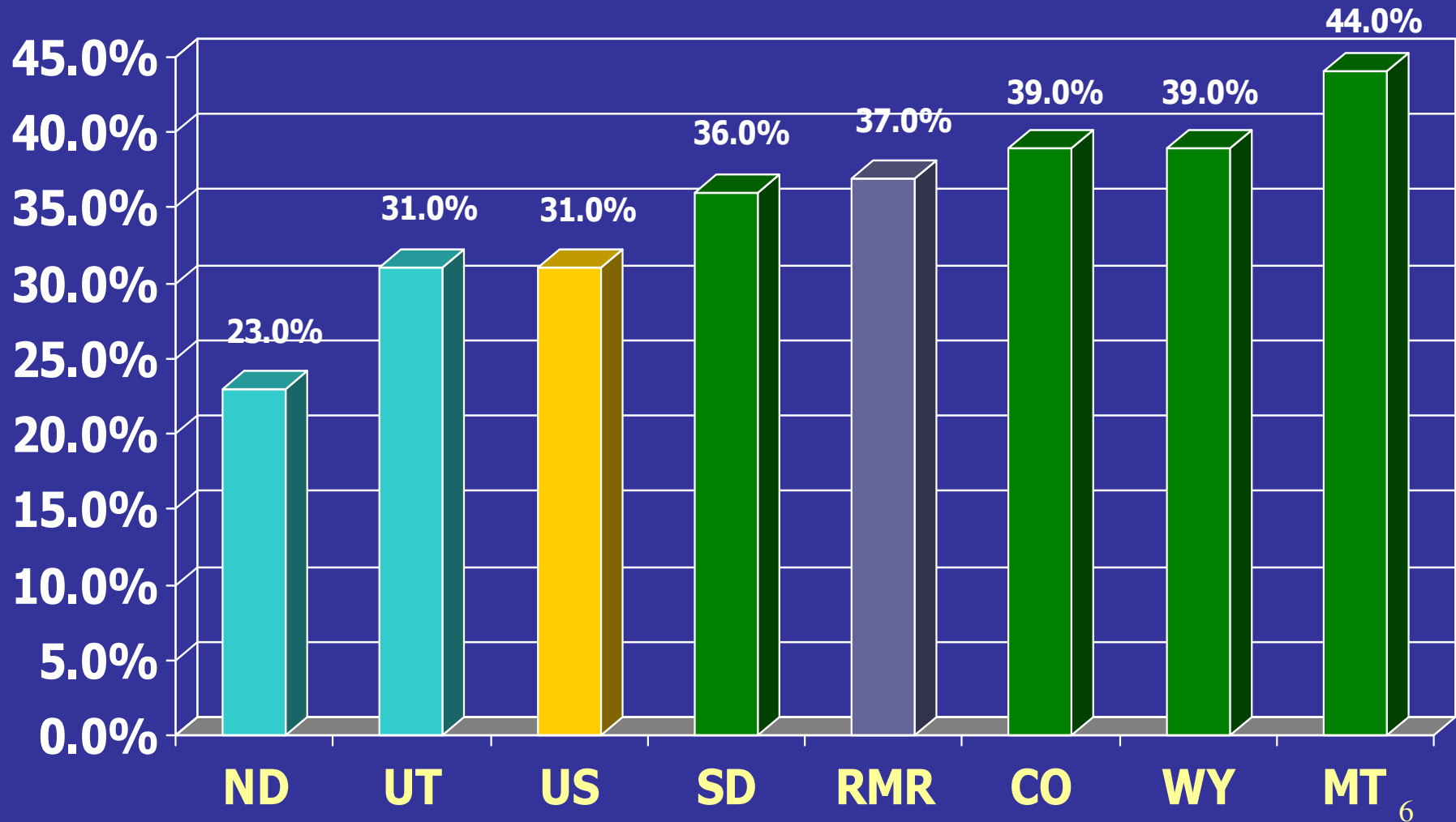
- MT – most rural travel in U.S. at 77%
- Higher Speeds
- Time to emergency services avg: 1 hour
- State Patrol = 200 officers
- Area = 145,500 sq. mi.
- Less funding
- MA – least rural travel in U.S. at 8%
- Lower Speeds
- Time to emergency services avg: 15 min
- State Patrol = 2,500 officers
- Area = 7,840 sq. mi.
- More funding

**Fatality Rate = 2.3**

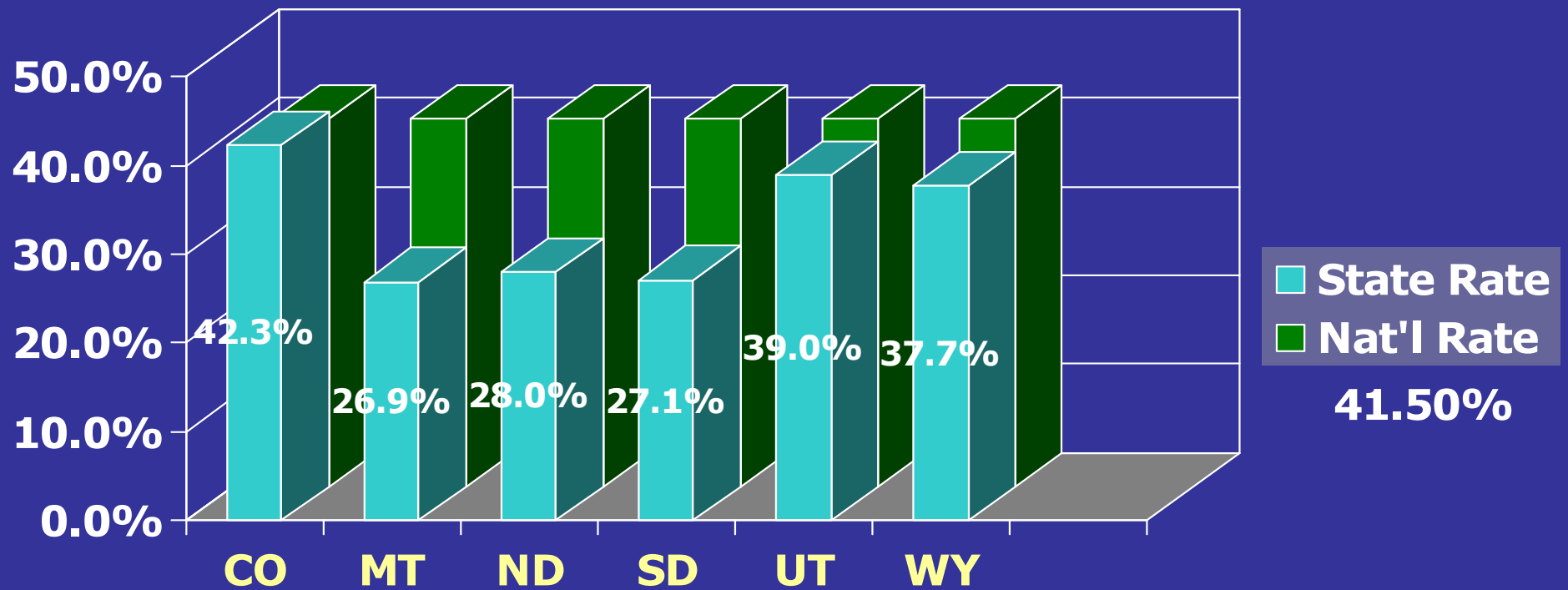
**Fatality Rate = .8**

# Speed-Related Fatalities

Rocky Mountain Region – 2004 FARS Data

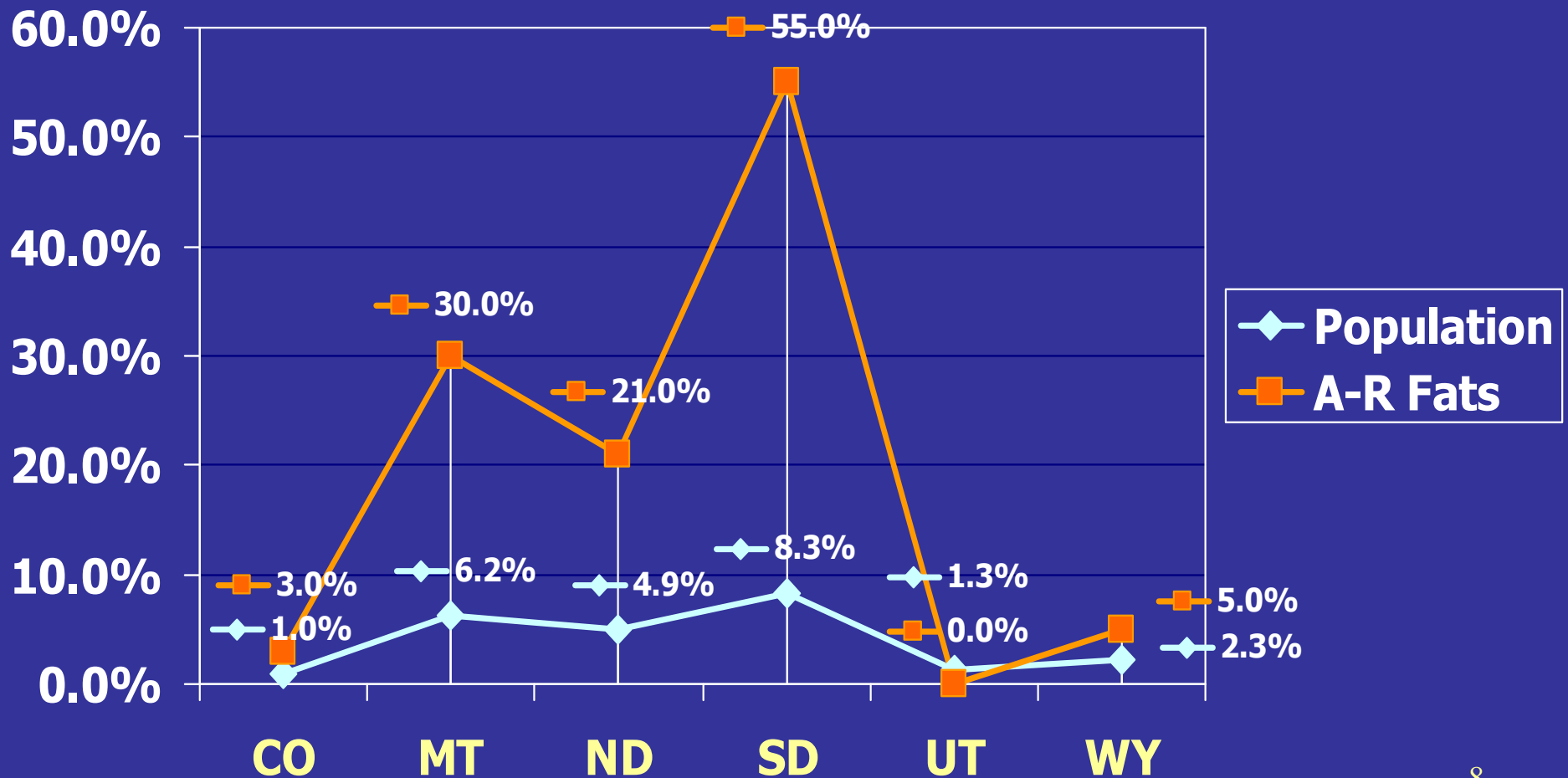


# Percentage of Belted Fatalities by State, 2004



# IMPAIRED DRIVING

## Native American Representation





# MT vs. US Highway Fatality Statistics

## Fatality Rate (per 100M VMT)

U.S. Avg: 1.44    **MT: 2.04**    Best in U.S: .87

## Alcohol Related

U.S. Avg: 39%    **MT: 46%**    Best in U.S: 24%

## Safety Belts (MT Usage rate: 81.3%)

U.S. Avg: 41.3%    **MT: 28%**    Best in U.S: 59.3%

# Montana Comprehensive Highway Safety -- Plan Process Flow

- ↓ **Gather and define a mission -- OUTREACH**
- ↓ **Seek to understand the Problem -- DATA**
- ↓ **Define Goals and Strategic Objectives**
- ↓ **Discovery and Alignment of efforts**
- ↓ **Fill the gaps**
- ↓ **Find the champions**
- ↓ **Continue the journey**

# **MDT's CHSP: Participation of the Passionate**

**MDT offices: Director's Office, Motor Carriers,  
Engineering, NHTSA Programs Office, Planning**

**Non-MDT: Office of Public Instruction, Highway Patrol,  
Human Services, Ofc of Court Administration, FHWA,  
MCSAP, Safety Groups, Emergency Responders,  
Indian Health Service, MPOs, local law enforcement,  
AAA, Motor Carriers Assoc., Governor's Ofc.,  
NHTSA, BIA, Legislators, DUI Task Force**

**Tribal Nations: Blackfeet, Confederated Salish –  
Kootenai, Ft. Peck, Rocky Boy, Little Shell, Crow,  
Northern Cheyenne**

*Participation at Each Meeting Ranges from 45 – 50*

# Most Important CHSP Objectives

- Reduce alcohol related fatalities
- Reduce Native American fatalities
- Increase seat belt use
- Decrease run-off-the-road crashes
- Reduce crashes on High Crash Corridors
- + 8 other objectives

**PROGRESS ON ALL OBJECTIVES NEEDS INTER-  
AGENCY-CROSS JURISDICTIONAL  
COOPERATION**



## Solutions Must Be:

- Multi-Agency
- Multi-Jurisdictional

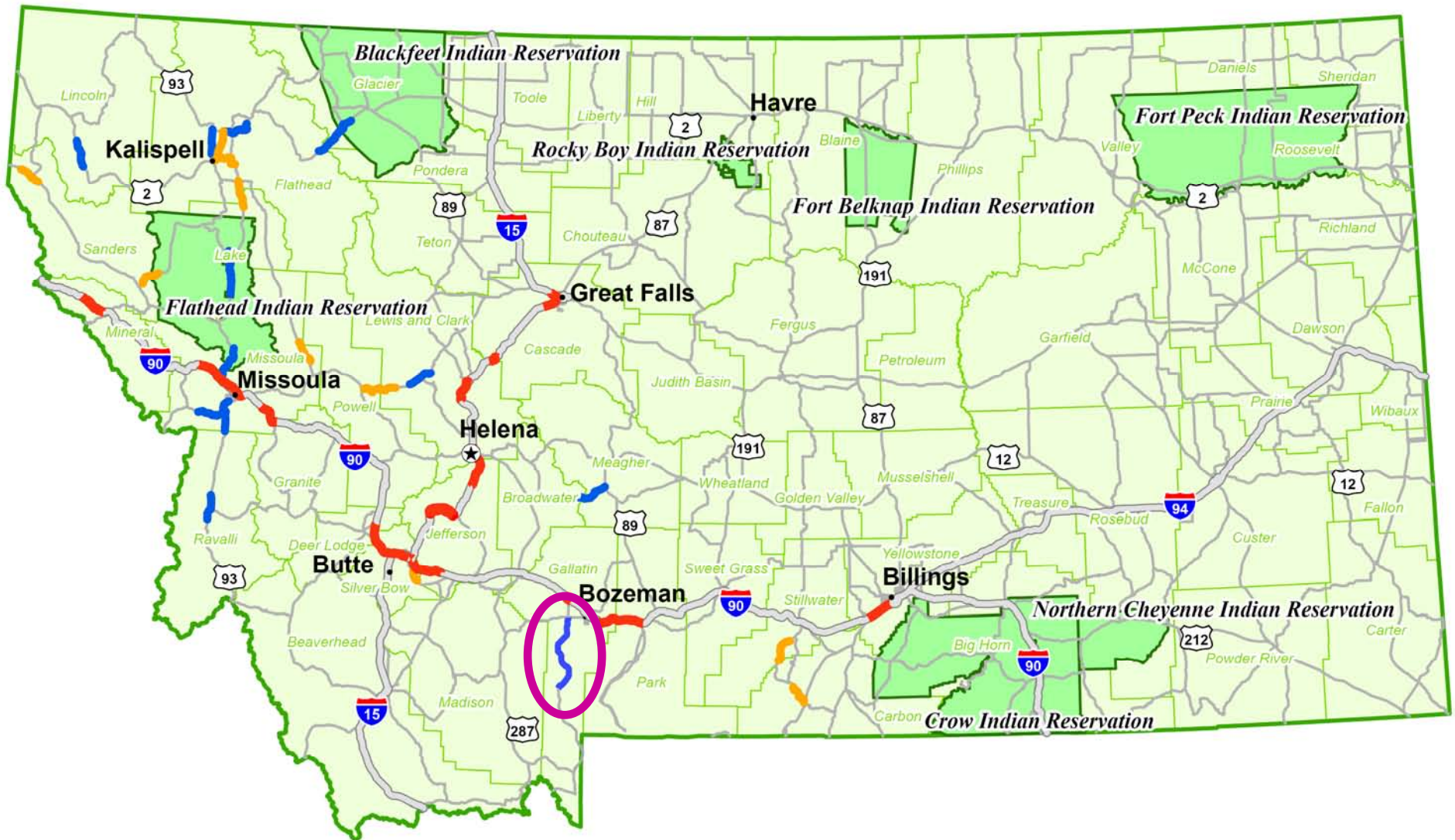


# *Cooperative Safety Efforts:*

## **1. COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS**

# Montana High Crash Corridors

— Interstate Highways    — US Highways    — Montana Highways

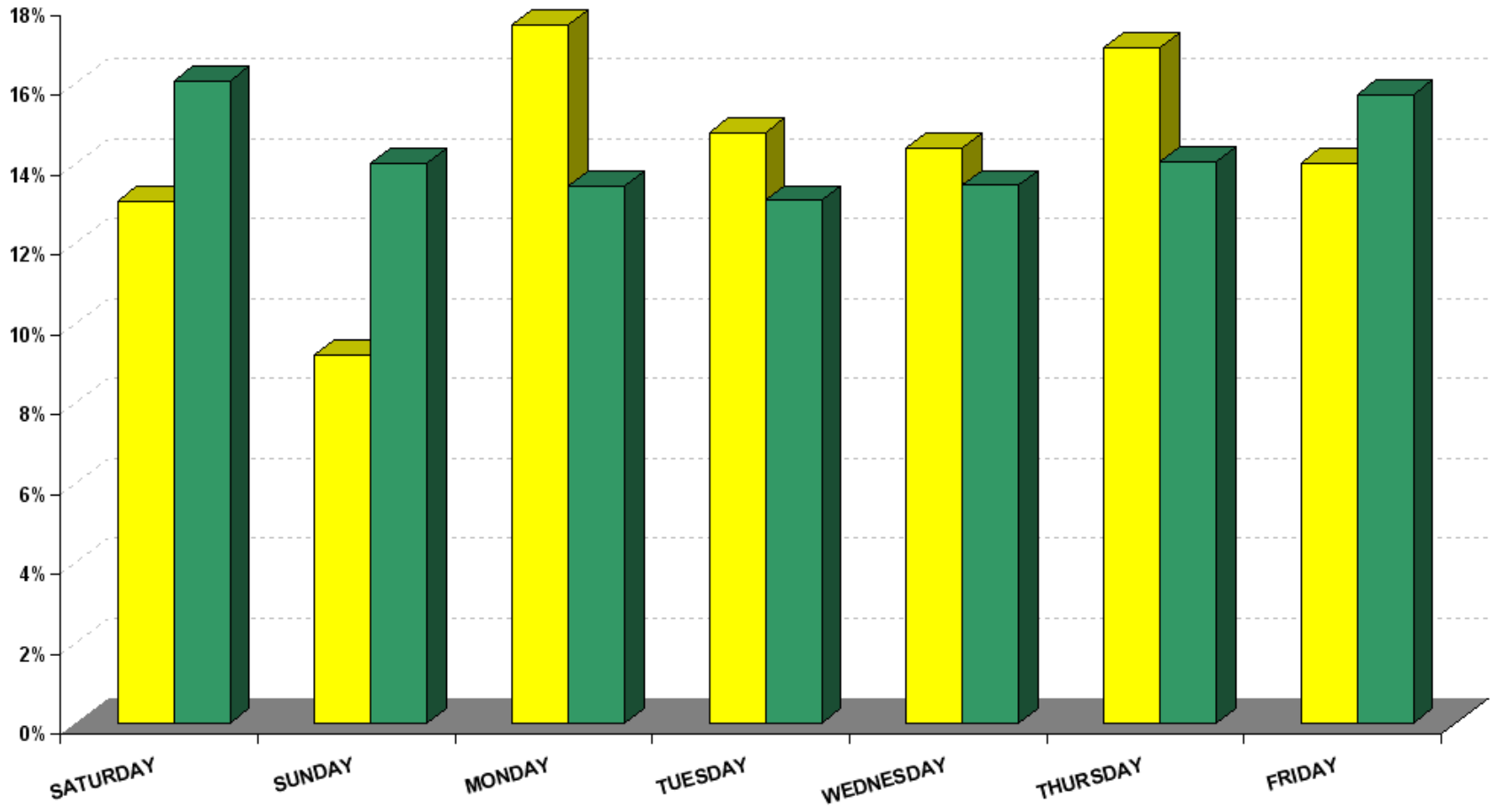


Current as of July 2007  
Subject to Further Revision.

# US 191 From Big Sky Spur to Four Corners

Day of Week Crash Comparison  
2002 - 2006

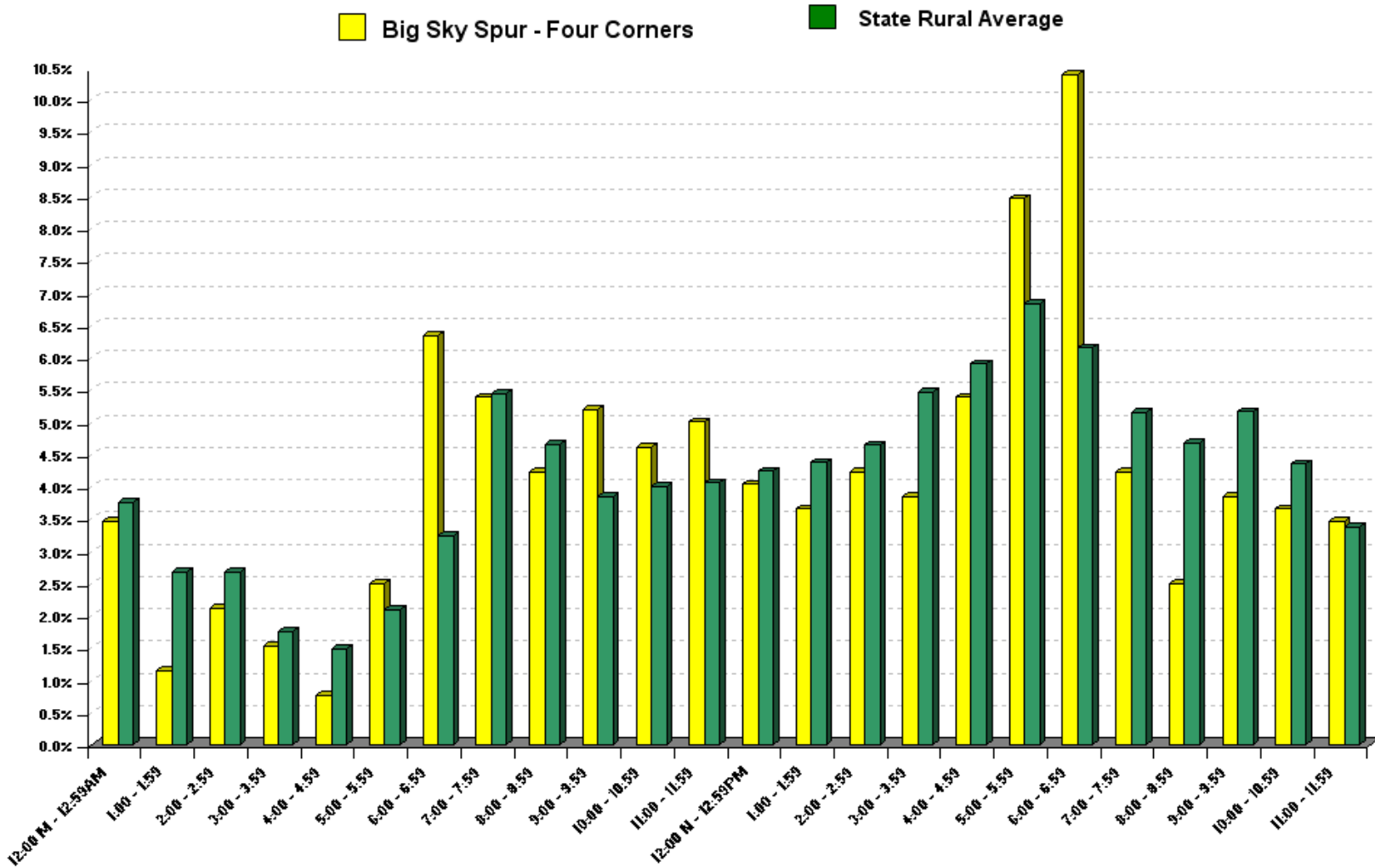
Big Sky Spur - Four Corners      State Rural Average



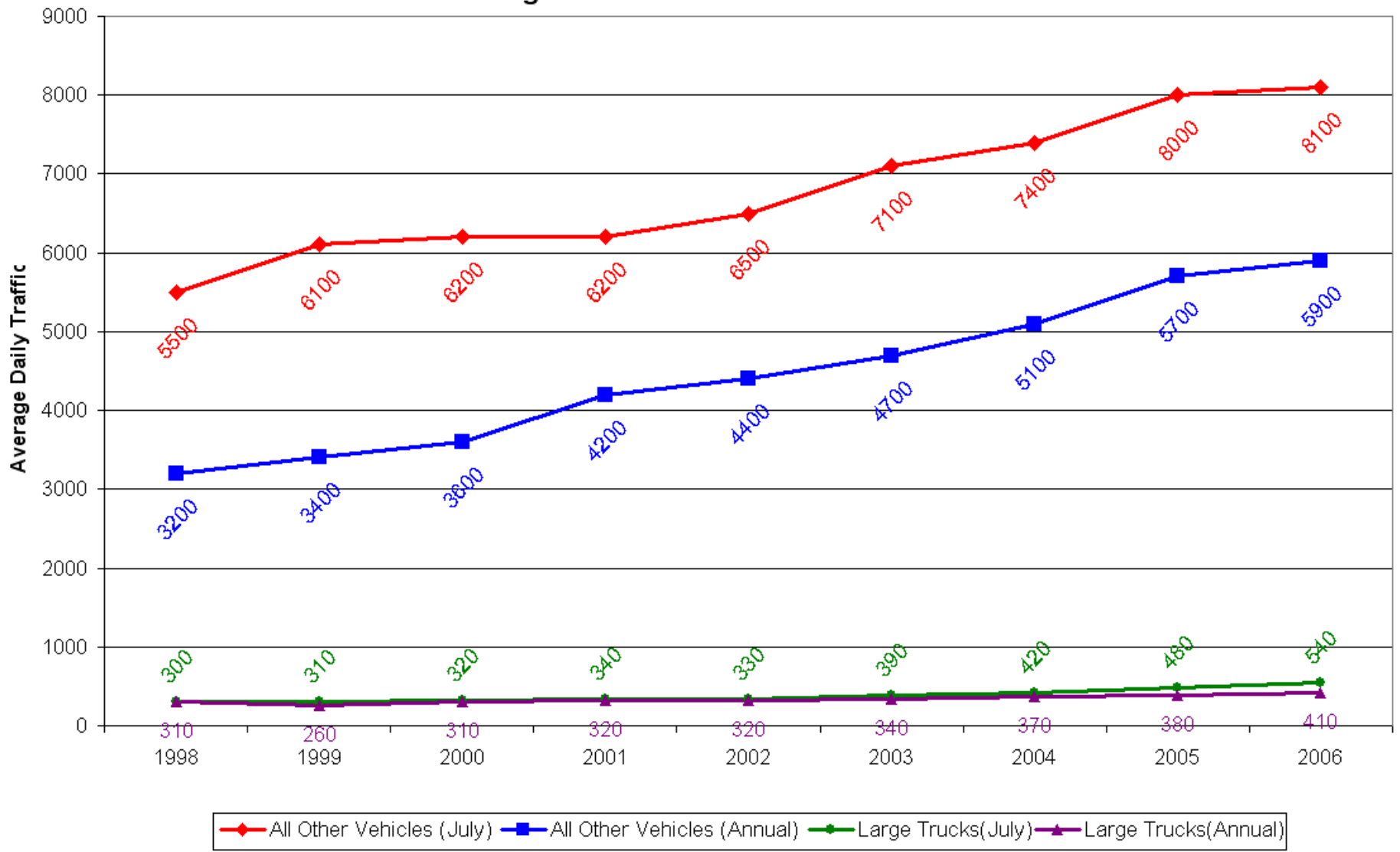


# US 191 From Big Sky Spur to Four Corners

Hour of Crash Occurrence Comparison  
2002 - 2006



## US 191 From Big Sky Spur to Four Corners Traffic Volumes Large Trucks vs Other Vehicles



# *Cooperative Safety Efforts:*

## **2. Partnership With Montana Highway Patrol**

# MHP Roving Patrols

- MHP will field 1 Sergeant and 5 Troopers early 2008.
- Mission: Enforce for DUI and Speed
- Deployment: Concentrated on High Crash Corridors or High Incidence of DUI
- Speed violations will trigger for seat belt enforcement
- MDT Initial Commitment: 2 years funding
- Funding Commitment: \$500,000 annually
- Long Term: May continue if effective

# Mobile DUI Processing Trailer



*Events: Miller Lite Hill Climb, Clinton Testicle Festival, Butte Rockin' the Rivers, Eureka Bull Rodeo, Plains Fair, Football Games*

- Goal: Deter DUI by Going on Site of Events
- Troopers do not have to leave event to process
- Presence of trailer is itself a deterrent
- MDT Grant: \$250,000

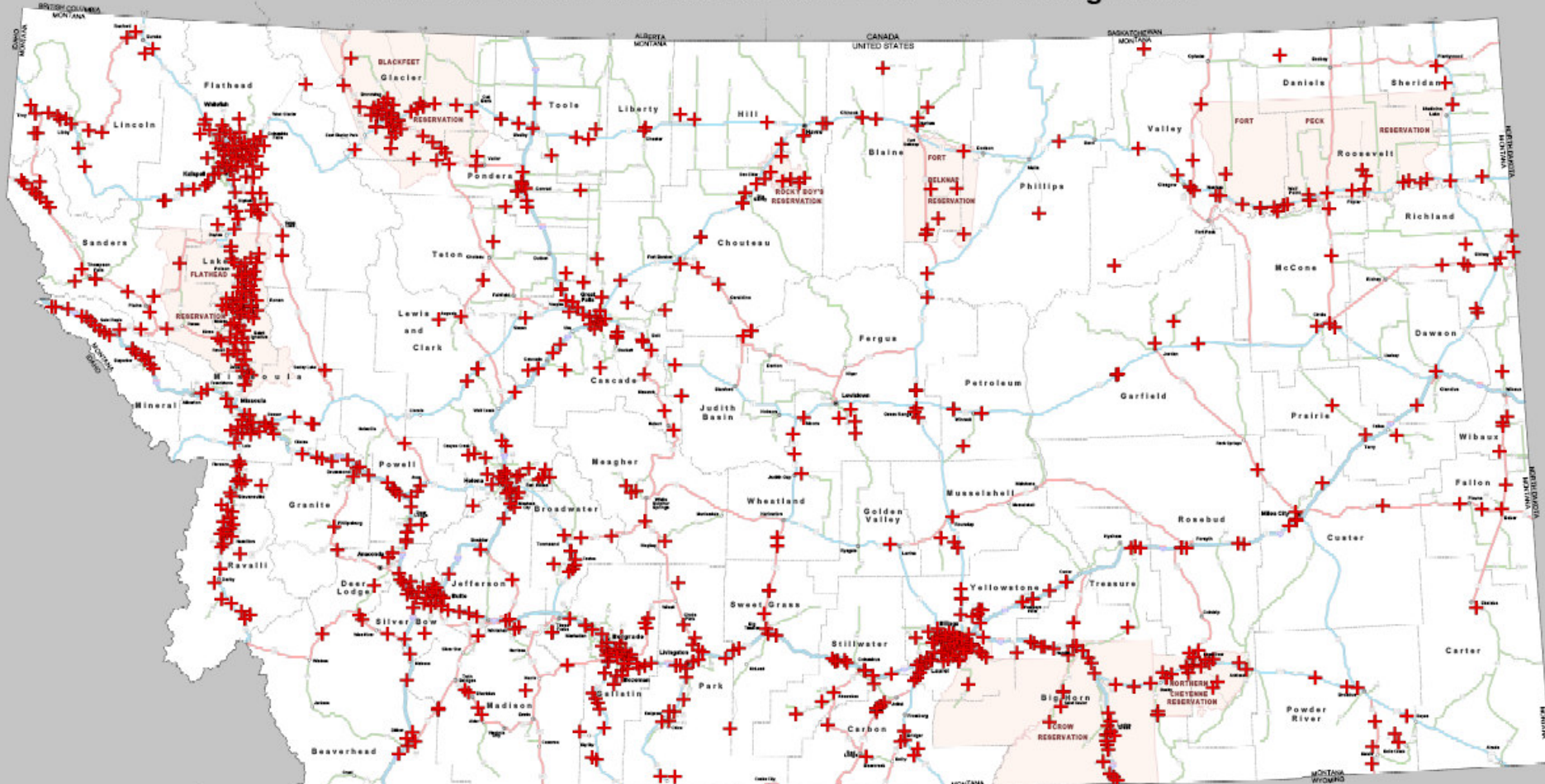


**Presence of DUI Processing Van at Events Deters DUI**

*Cooperative Safety Efforts:*

**3. Coalition for a Montana  
Primary Seat Belt Law**

# FATALITIES NOT WEARING SEATBELTS - 2001 through 2006



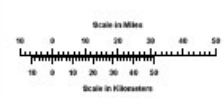
**74% OF OCCUPANT FATALITIES WERE NOT WEARING SEATBELTS  
940 OF 1278 DEATHS**

**Map Legend**

+ Fatality Not Wearing Seatbelt

**System Designations:**

<span style="color: blue;">—</span> NH&I Interstate	<b>Route Numbers:</b>	<span style="color: green;">■</span> Cities and Towns	<span style="color: pink;">—</span> Boundaries
<span style="color: blue;">—</span> NH&I Non-Interstate	<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> Interstate	<span style="color: green;">■</span> Urban Area	<span style="color: pink;">—</span> Reservation
<span style="color: red;">—</span> Primary	<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> U.S.	<span style="color: green;">●</span> State Capital	<span style="color: pink;">—</span> Other Symbols:
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Secondary	<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> Montana	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Incorporated City	<span style="color: pink;">—</span> Part of Entry
<span style="color: grey;">—</span> Off System	<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> Secondary	<span style="color: green;">○</span> City/Town	



PREPARED BY THE  
 STATE OF MONTANA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 ROAD INVENTORY AND MAPPING SECTION  
 Created February 2007 in ArcGIS 9.1 using ArcMap. EDRI, Inc.  
 R42 193 Stamp/Name Montana PWS 2500  
 Lambert Conformal Conic





# Montana Making Progress on Enacting Primary Seatbelt Law

- 2003 Session – Never Out of the Senate
- 2005 Session – Passed Senate, Lost by 56 Votes in House
- 2007 Session – Passed Senate, Lost by 6 Votes in House



# Postcard Campaign

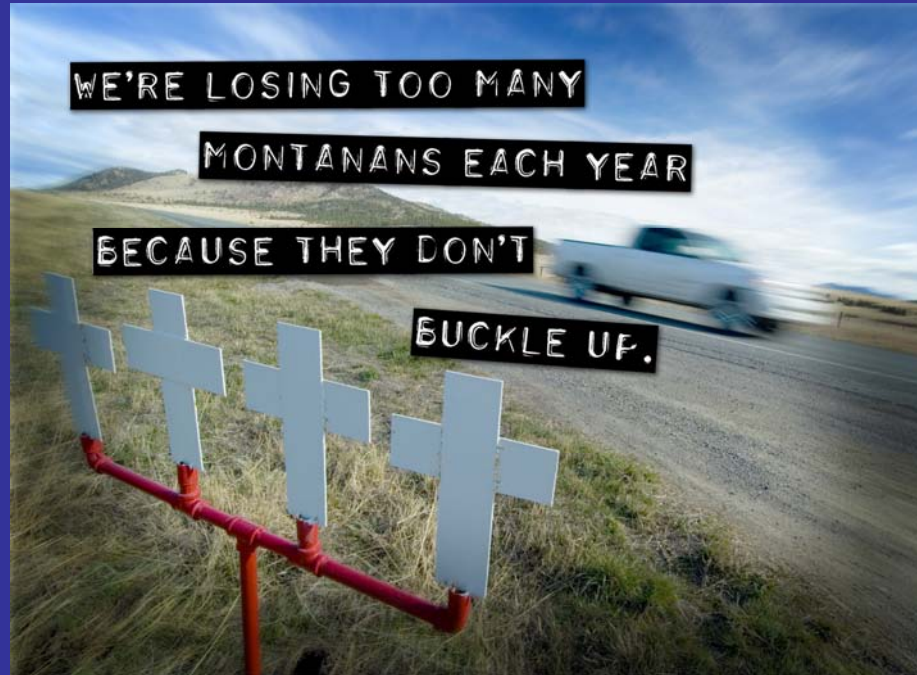
Leading up to January 2007 Legislature

September:

Focus on Brain Injuries

October:

Focus on Cost to Society



November:

Focus on Public Perception

December:

Focus on Loss of Loved Ones

# Coalition for a Primary Seat Belt Law

## PRIVATE SECTOR CHAIR – AAA MT

- AAA, MT Hospital Assoc, MT Motor Carriers, Major Insurers, Major Hospitals and Clinics, Legislators, Highway Patrol, Educators, MDT, Indian Health Services



State Government Cannot Accomplish Major Policy  
Change Alone

*Cooperative Safety Efforts:*

**4. Highway Traffic Records  
Strategic Plan**

# Highway Traffic Records Strategic Plan

- Goal: Improve Highway Traffic Records Quality and Increase Access to Information
- Interagency Members:
  - Department of Justice
  - MDT
  - Department of Health and Human Services
  - Department of Administration
  - Office of Court Administrator
  - Future: Local Law Enforcement, Local Judiciary

# Emerging Trends

- **Motorcycle Injuries and Fatalities**
  - **+31.6% increase in fatality crashes in 5 years**
  - **+35.1% of injury crashes in 5 years**
  - **Who are the Partners on this issue?**
- **Growing Volumes and Speeds on Local Roads in Suburban Fringe Areas**
  - **Community Awareness Needed**
- **Growth in older driver population**
  - **AARP is a willing partner**

# Progress but No Silver Bullet

- Alcohol Related Fatalities Down
- Injuries for 0-14 year olds down 25% since 2000  
– more children being restrained
- Severe Injury Rate Level to Possible Decline
- Alcohol Involved Fatalities on Blackfeet Reservation Down

