Roadway Safety Since COVID-19
Increased Fatality Rates Since COVID-19

2020 Fatality Data Show Increased Traffic Fatalities During Pandemic
Risky Driving Behaviors Including Failure to Wear a Seatbelt, Speeding, and Drinking While Driving Identified as Contributing Factors

Map: Pedestrian fatalities in the U.S. reach four-decade high. See which states had the most.
More than 7,000 people were killed nationwide in 2021.

HEALTH
'Tragic': Driving Was Down In 2020, But Traffic Fatality Rates Surged
March 5, 2021 · 3:30 PM ET
CAMILA DOMONOSKE

Killed while walking: Pedestrian death rate surged during pandemic

NEWS
Newly Released Estimates Show Traffic Fatalities Reached a 16-Year High in 2021

U.S. traffic deaths hit 20-year high in early 2022
"The overall numbers are still moving in the wrong direction. Now is the time for all states to double down on traffic safety," said Steven Cliff, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
Increasing Roadway Deaths across the US after Years of Progress

US fatal crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists increasing faster than for those in vehicles.

Montgomery County did not experience the large uptick seen in rest of US between 2010 and 2020, but fatal crashes have been trending up in the past five years after recent record low in 2017.

**County Roadway Fatalities Down Compared to 2010**


*NOTE: Bicyclist fatalities excluded from chart. Averaged 1 bicyclist fatality per year.*
Serious and Fatal Crashes

Comparing January 1 – August 31 for each year

Source: MCPD. Includes MCPD, RPD, TPPD, GPD, and M-NCPPC MC reports. Data retrieved 09/08/22.
Includes crashes where at least one party suffered serious or fatal injuries. **2022 data are preliminary.**
Fatal Crashes

Comparing January 1 – August 31 for each year

Source: MCPD CRU. Data retrieved 09/08/22.
Includes crashes where at least one party suffered fatal injuries. 2022 data are preliminary.
During and Post-COVID

- Increase in “triple-threat” fatal crashes involving speeding, impairment, and unrestrained occupants ejected from the vehicle.
- Increase in proportion killed or seriously injured testing positive for opioids and marijuana for all road users.
- Increase in impromptu and planned speed contests.
- Lower traffic volumes and spread out through the day more than pre-COVID.
- For 2022, more daylight fatalities (72%) compared to prior 6 years (40%) in the county.

Addressing Increasing Fatal Crashes

- Continued focus on the High Injury Network using evidence-based safety treatments.
- Addressing substance abuse and preparing for possible legalization of recreational marijuana use.
- Focused law enforcement on known dangerous driving behaviors integrated with automated enforcement.
- National effort to address increasing distractions from vehicle “infotainment systems” and vehicle design.
2030 Action Plan & FY22 Work Plan
**ACTION PLAN & WORK PLAN**

How the long-term and short-term plans relate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2030 Plan</th>
<th>Vision Zero</th>
<th>Complete Streets</th>
<th>Multimodal Future</th>
<th>Culture of Safety</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan Pillars</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe System Alignment</td>
<td>Safe Streets</td>
<td>Safe Speeds</td>
<td>Safe Transportation</td>
<td>Safe &amp; Sustainable Communities</td>
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<td>Actions</td>
<td>17 Actions</td>
<td>3 Actions</td>
<td>10 Actions</td>
<td>1 Action</td>
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<td>FY22 Work Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>63 Tasks*</td>
<td>5 Tasks</td>
<td>16 Tasks</td>
<td>2 Tasks</td>
<td>2 Tasks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There are 66 total tasks under Safe Streets, but 3 are also listed under Safe Transportation, so removed from chart above to avoid double counting.*
Projects Underway In FY22
Securing Outside Funding

Working collaboratively to build competitive proposals for grants and technical assistance.

Over $1 million secured for FY22.

HSIP, SRTS, & TAP Grants
$720,000 for four pedestrian hybrid beacons. Our proposal represented 8/10 dollars distributed for FY22.
TAP grant for MD 187 & Cordell and a SRTS grant for MD 188 & Cordell for ped safety design / construction, respectively.
$52,000 Kim Lamphier Bikeways grant for advancing Bethesda Trolley Trail connection to Twinbrook Metro.

Other MDOT Grants
$218,000 from MHSO for Police overtime focused on aggressive, impaired, and distracted driving law enforcement in FFY21.
$360,000 from MDOT Secretary for MD 355 & MD 187 intersection safety.

MWCOG Tech. Asst.
Advancing study and design projects through the Transportation-Land Use and Roadway Safety Programs.
MCDOT secured an inaugural Regional Roadway Safety technical assistance to advance safety audit of MD 650. MCDOT also received $85k for improving ped/bike connections to Germantown MARC station.

New Federal Support
Applied for $8 million for Germantown Safe Streets project as part of the new $6 billion Safe Streets and Roads for All program for local governments and MPOs.

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NEW SIGNAL AND BEACON INSTALLATIONS

39 new installations since onset of Vision Zero Initiative

26 additional devices scheduled
PHBs for People Walking

• PHB’s function similarly for pedestrians and motor vehicles as a traffic signal functions with yellow and red lights.
• Pedestrians must activate the beacon by pressing the button, then waiting for the walk signal (less than 30 seconds).
• All PHBs have accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and countdown pedestrian signals (CPS).

PHBs for People Driving

• Same rules of the road – yellow means “Exercise Caution” and “Prepare to Stop” and red means “Stop”.
• Nuance is the beacon goes dark, which allows drivers to proceed at speed.
• Continued media and on-street outreach is progressing to build awareness of these new devices.
High Injury Network Projects

Advancing study, design, and construction on County and State roadways based on crash risk

- **Study**
  - New Hampshire Ave (MD 650) in conjunction with Prince George’s County between Piney Branch Rd and the Beltway.
  - Aspen Hill – Bel Pre Rd, Georgia Ave, & Connecticut Ave.
  - Snouffer School Rd

- **Design**
  - Crabbs Branch Way (underway)
  - Randolph Rd (underway)
  - Sam Eig Hwy (underway)

- **Construction**
  - Shady Grove Rd (signal modifications)

Signal changes at Shady Grove Rd & Briardale Rd with exclusive red turn phasing and backplates to address failure to yield crashes.
Speed Limit Reductions

Matching Posted Speeds to Surrounding Context

MCDOT and MDOT SHA have lowered posted speed limits across the county to better match the posted speed limit with the surrounding community. Most speed limits lowered by MDOT SHA are along the high injury network.

The speed limit reductions are supported by design changes and law enforcement. Portions of Georgia Ave were narrowed during a repaving project to slow driver speed. Automated speed enforcement has been added to sections of Georgia Ave and Norbeck Rd after travel speeds remained elevated a year after the speed limit change.
Bikeway and Shared Use Path Projects Led by MCDOT

- 15 projects under design
- 6 ready for or under construction
- 4 recently completed

Note: Placement of project does not indicate percent completion, but the current phase of the project.
Sidewalk Installation

Requests far outpacing ability to supply

• 30,352 linear feet (5.75 miles) of sidewalk were constructed during FY22. Exceeded the 24,000 feet goal for the year.

• Program fills in gaps in neighborhoods and major roads. This year, major sidewalk construction along Oak Drive in Damascus and Rockville Pike in White Flint.

• Under the minor sidewalks program, 200-300 requests are received each year. Current funding allows about 10-15 projects to be completed per year.

• MCDOT was funded this year to complete a one-time study of sidewalk gaps and needs around County public schools.
Advancing BRT & Safety Projects

Combining safety and mobility projects to create multi-modal boulevards

Crossing Projects

- Intersection Improvement
- New Crossing

New Sidewalk

- Shared Use Path
- Sidewalk
- Bike Pedestrian Priority Area

Traffic Signal Installed April 2020

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Scheduled for 2022

Traffic Signal Installed February 2022

Miles: 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.8

Credits: ESRI Community Map Contributors, Fairfax County, VA, M-NPC, MNPC, VITA, OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Enr, RTEC, Garmin, Safegraph, GeoTechnologies Inc., NRINASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, NCDOT, SHA
Safety for People with Disabilities

Planning and Designing Streets to be Safer and More Accessible for People with Vision Disabilities
A Toolkit for Montgomery County and the Metropolitan Washington Region

First Edition
October 2021

Contract No. 21-074
Submitted by Toole Design
Safe Road Users

Outreach and Law Enforcement
YOUTH OUTREACH

MCDOT engaged school-age residents to help them understand the importance of traffic safety. MCDOT connected with students through in-person and virtual events and programs, online contests and content.

**17 events**
- reaching nearly 7,000 people
- 170 contest entries (more than four times the number for past contests)
- 7,000+ webpage views

**Walktober**
- Connected with nearly 3,000 students on Walk to School Day
- 2,000 commuters at Metro transit stations and shopping areas
- Held 4 Walking Wednesday events

**Heads Up Phones Down Video Contest**
- 406 views of Bus Safety Tips on YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=JPaWicgZVYA

**Bus Safety Week 2021**
- 10 Bike Rodeos reaching 300+ kids!

**Bike Rodeo Tour**
- Received 700+ contest entries
- Visited 17 schools
- Nearly 6,000 webpage views

**Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors**
- 100+ applications
- 30 Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors chosen to engage in real-world traffic safety projects

**2nd Annual Art Contest**
- 200 registered to attend The Ped Safety pit stop
- Bike to Work Day
- 250 resident interactions

ADULT OUTREACH

MCDOT engaged with adults in the community through in-person events, providing education about specific areas throughout the county, and mitigation strategies to help curb unsafe behaviors and ultimately decrease traffic incidents.

**Engaged with 1,000 shoppers**
- Mailer sent to 4,000 homes
- HIN Outreach

**Street Smart Testimonial Wall**
- 200 registered to attend The Ped Safety pit stop
- Bike to Work Day
- 250 resident interactions

**HAWK Outreach**
- **200+ at Greenfest**
- **1,000+ at Hometown Holidays**
- **9,000+ at the M.C. Agricultural Fair**
- **500+ at HalloWheaton**
- **600+ at the Taste of Wheaton**
Central Traffic Unit (CTU)

CTU started 7/4/21 to focus resources on areas of need while having some capacity for responding to community complaints.
Purposeful, Evidence-Based Policing Practices

Driver Yielding to Non-Motorists
- Targeted Driver Enforcement at Crosswalks
- Increased Driver Yield Rates

Impaired Driving
- Publicized Sobriety Checkpoints
- 17% Decrease Alcohol-Related Crashes

Speeding
- Automated Speed Enforcement
- 19% Reduction in Severe Collisions

Unrestrained Occupants
- Short Term, High-Visibility Seat Belt Law Enforcement
- 16% Increase in Seatbelt Use

Focused Enforcement Efforts

45% of 40,214 stops by MCPD officers in FY22 involved a warning or citation for speeding. 57% of all violations were issued as warnings.

NOTE: A traffic stop can have multiple violations. In FY22, MCPD wrote 1.8 violations per traffic stop.
FY22
CTU
Stops
Hotspots

CTU focused on speeding along arterials based on crash risk.
Automated Speed and Red Light Enforcement

Expansion of Sites and Cameras with New Contract

MCPD executed a new automated enforcement contract on March 31, 2022. The new contract will not disrupt current operations and will allow the number of cameras to expand by 10 speed and 5 red light cameras a year for the life of the 5-year contract.
Automated Stopped Bus Enforcement

All MCPS buses equipped with safety cameras starting in 2019

Automated enforcement for illegally passing a stopped school bus was implemented for the 2016-2017 school year. Between 2016 and 2019, MCPS equipped all school buses with cameras, leading to year-over-year increases. School closures in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in fewer citations.
THANK YOU!
Appendix: Additional Crash Data

Preliminary 2022 Crash and Traffic Volume Data
Maryland Traffic Volume

2022 through July is 4% below 2019 levels.

NOTE: This chart displays estimated monthly Vehicle Miles of Travel compared with the previous year based on data collected at approximately 51 continuous count stations throughout the State of Maryland.
Fatal Crash Benchmark

Compared to 9 peer cities and counties, Montgomery County had the 3rd lowest fatal crash rate.
## Preliminary 2022 Jan – Aug Crash Totals

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL CRASHES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclists</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers / Passengers</td>
<td>5,874</td>
<td>5,383</td>
<td>+9%</td>
<td>7,241</td>
<td>-19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedestrians</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>+60%</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>-2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,236</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,645</strong></td>
<td><strong>+10%</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,622</strong></td>
<td><strong>-18%</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FATAL CRASHES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclists</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+200%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drivers / Passengers</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>+29%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>+100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrians</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>+75%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>+56%</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>+75%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
- Red Text = The number is preliminary and subject to change. Data as of 9/8/22.
- Includes reports from MCPD, RCPD, GCPD, M-NCPPC Police, and TPPD.
Serious and Fatal Crashes

Comparing January 1 – August 31 for each year

Source: MCPD. Includes MCPD, RPD, TPPD, GPD, and M-NCPPC MC reports. Data retrieved 09/08/22. Includes crashes where at least one party suffered serious or fatal injuries. 2022 data are preliminary.
Fatal Crashes

Comparing January 1 – August 31 for each year

Source: MCPD CRU. Data retrieved 09/08/22.
Includes crashes where at least one party suffered fatal injuries. 2022 data are preliminary.
Pedestrian Collisions by Month

Pedestrian - Involved Crashes

CY16-CY19 Average  CY20  CY21  CY22 Prelim.

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

0  10  20  30  40  50  60

Pedestrian-Involved Crashes
Bicyclist Collisions by Month

Bicyclist-Involved Crashes

CY16-CY19 Average  CY20  CY21  CY22 Prelim.
HIN roadways account for 40% of serious and fatal injury crashes, 3% of road network.
Serious and Fatal Crashes by Road Classification

Arterials were 14% of road miles, 73% of non-interstate VMT, and 74% of severe crashes.
Serious and Fatal Crashes in Equity Emphasis Areas

EEAs represent 7% of land, 14% of roadway mileage, 25% of the population, and 30% of serious and fatal roadway crashes.
Residency of Person Seriously Injured or Killed in Motor Vehicle Crash

82% were Montgomery County residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Serious and Fatal Injuries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cyclists</strong></td>
<td>85% Mont. Co. 5% MD - Other County 7% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pedestrians</strong></td>
<td>87% Mont. Co. 6% MD - Other County 4% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vehicle Occupants</strong></td>
<td>80% Mont. Co. 11% MD - Other County 3% Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age and Serious/Fatal Injury

Youngest and oldest residents at most risk for serious and fatal injuries.
Sex of Person Seriously Injured or Killed in Motor Vehicle Crash

Males were the majority (62%) of those seriously injured or killed.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of males, females, and unknown for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists.]

- **Drivers:** Male: 63%, Female: 36%, Unknown: 1%
- **Passengers:** Male: 45%, Female: 54%, Unknown: 1%
- **Pedestrians:** Male: 55%, Female: 44%, Unknown: 1%
- **Cyclists:** Male: 80%, Female: 20%, Unknown: 0%
Serious/Fatal Crashes Between Dusk and Dawn

66% of fatal pedestrian crashes occurred at night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Serious</th>
<th>Fatal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Occupant</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclist</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Black and African American Montgomery County residents had an emergency room admission rate for motor vehicle crashes 136% higher than Asian/Pacific Islander residents and 104% higher than White, Non-Hispanic residents.
Impairment-Related Fatal Crashes

Significant increase in 2020 with return to “normal” in 2021.