



THE CHECKPOINT

Message from the Chairman

On Dec. 1, I witnessed the annual memorial for impaired driving victims known as MD Remembers. Last year, 148 people never made it home because a drunk or drugged driver made a selfish choice. We hear and read the numbers, but at MD Remembers, we see the faces. The faces of victims – men, women, children – and the faces of shattered families who, years later, struggle to pick up the pieces. Any of these faces could be one of us, our family members or friends, our fellow officers.

Here and across the nation, the number of people dying on our roads rose in the last two years. As this year comes to a close, let's take the time to meet with our personnel and reflect on our engagement and commitment to making a lifesaving difference on our roadways.

In 2018, join me in making a plan – a strategic plan to drive these numbers toward zero. Our fellow Marylanders depend on us every day. Let's do everything in our power to not let them down.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Jerry Jones
Chairman, MCPA Traffic Safety Committee

Building a Culture of Safety

Highway Safety in Washington County

Washington County Sheriff Doug Mullendore was concerned. From 2011 to 2014, he saw his county's traffic fatalities rise dramatically, from 12 in 2011 to 22 in 2014.

From 2013 to 2015, the county accounted for approximately five percent of all traffic fatalities in Maryland, while only representing about two and a half percent of the State's population, and three and a half percent of vehicle miles traveled statewide.

The solution seemed simple - figure out the main causes and address them. If only it was that easy.

"When we looked at the data, there wasn't a common denominator," Mullendore said. "The fatalities were spread across a wider spectrum."

But he knew the solution. He needs to change driver behavior through education and enforcement.

Washington County already had a Traffic Advisory Council, so Mullendore recommended and now chairs a sub-committee that developed and adopted a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in September.

"The Traffic Advisory Council allowed us to have all of the players at the table to begin with," Mullendore said. "That has made the process a lot easier."

The county's SHSP shares the goal of the State's SHSP, which is to cut the number of deaths on Maryland roads in half by 2030. It was approved by the Traffic Advisory Committee as well as the five-member Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Mullendore also reached out to each municipality in the county to get their input and in turn, get their commitment to moving Maryland *Toward Zero Deaths*.

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*Sheriff Mullendore receives the
MHSO Chief's Award.*

*L to R: Col. Jerry Jones, MDOT MVA
Administrator Christine Nizer, Sheriff
Mullendore, MDOT Secretary Pete Rahn,
MDOT MHSO Chief Tom Gianni.*



NHTSA Releases National 2016 Fatal Crash Data

Data collected from every state and the District of Columbia.



- Distraction-related deaths (3,450 fatalities) decreased by 2.2 percent;
- Drowsy-driving deaths (803 fatalities) decreased by 3.5 percent;
- Drunk-driving deaths (10,497 fatalities) increased by 1.7 percent;
- Speeding-related deaths (10,111 fatalities) increased by 4.0 percent;
- Unbelted deaths (10,428 fatalities) increased by 4.6 percent;
- Motorcyclist deaths (5,286 fatalities – the largest number of motorcyclist fatalities since 2008) increased by 5.1 percent;
- Pedestrian deaths (5,987 fatalities – the highest number since 1990) increased by 9.0 percent; and
- Bicyclist deaths (840 fatalities – the highest number since 1991) increased by 1.3 percent.

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/usdot-releases-2016-fatal-traffic-crash-data>

REMEMBER: 94% of crashes are caused by human error—these are 100% preventable!



Upcoming

- **December 13 – 31, 2017**
Holiday Season Impaired Driving Enforcement (Checkpoint Strikeforce)
- **January 20-28, 2018**
Aggressive Driving Enforcement (ADAPT)
- **February 4, 2018**
Super Bowl Impaired Driving Enforcement



14th Annual Maryland Remembers

Friday, December 1, 2017

The 14th Annual Maryland Remembers Memorial for families who have lost loved ones due to an impaired driver was held in the Maryland State House Rotunda. Governor Larry Hogan, MD Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn, and law enforcement from across the State honored the victims. Rich Leotta and Marcia Goldman, parents of Montgomery County Police Officer Noah Leotta, were recognized for their impact on impaired driving prevention and advocacy.

Governor Hogan joined more than 40 law enforcement officials for a DUI Checkpoint Rally at the MSP Annapolis barrack later in the day. Law enforcement conducted eight checkpoints that night and approximately 50 saturation patrols throughout the State.

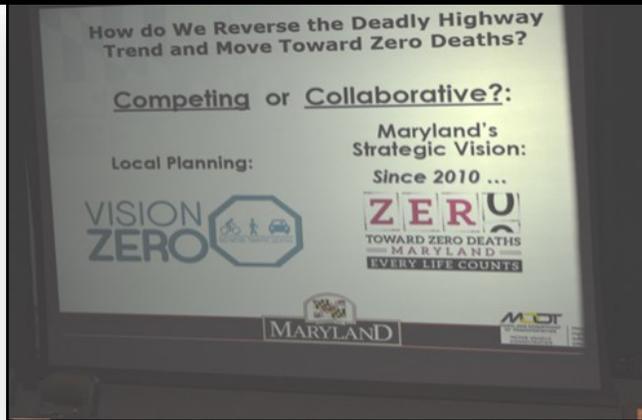




MHSO Partners Meeting

October 25, 2017

More than 150 representatives from enforcement, education, engineering, and EMS convened at the Maritime Conference Center for the Maryland Highway Safety Office's (MHSO) Partners Meeting. Breakout sessions included all of MHSO's Emphasis Area Teams: impaired, aggressive and distracted driving, occupant protection, highway infrastructure, and pedestrian and bicycle safety.



JOIN OUR TEAM

We are currently recruiting law enforcement officers from all over the state of Maryland to join our Strategic Highway Safety Plan Emphasis Area Teams. If you are interested and available, please contact Mike Sabol at msabol@mdot.state.md.us.

Building a Culture of Safety

Highway Safety in Washington County

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Washington County's adoption of the program began with public service announcements in September, followed by high visibility enforcement in October aimed at addressing Maryland's Move Over law, which requires drivers to move over one lane or to slow down when there is an emergency vehicle or tow truck with emergency lights activated.

The county also has enforcement initiatives for other areas, including impaired and distracted driving, and pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Pedestrian and bicyclist safety stood out as a growing problem on the county's roads. Mullendore said that stretches of the Dual Highway (US 40) in Washington County are often dark. Speeds range from 35 to 45 miles per hour, with motorists often going faster than the posted speed limit.

"By the time the headlights of the car made the pedestrian or bicyclist visible, with drivers going those speeds, it was too late."

State data shows that from 2011 to 2015, 13 people died and 241 were injured from pedestrian on-foot crashes in the county. He sees the pedestrian fatalities and injuries as a major problem, especially in one of the more rural counties in Maryland.

Mullendore said that pedestrians are not using the designated crossings and that makes them even more vulnerable to injury and death.

This summer, he bought 500 bright yellow traffic safety vests and distributed 250 to the Hagerstown Police and 250 to the county Sheriff's Office. Both agencies passed out the reflective vests to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mullendore hopes this is the first of many strategic solutions to educate, enforce, and ultimately save lives on Washington County roads.

The MHSO presented Sheriff Mullendore with the Chief's Award, which recognizes a law enforcement executive who has exemplified dedication to highway safety. The award was presented to Mullendore for his long-standing commitment to highway safety and for Washington County's continued dedication to developing and implementing a local SHSP.

Contact the **Traffic Safety Committee** Co-chairs:
Colonel Jerry Jones at wjones1@mdta.maryland.gov
Tom Gianni at tgianni@mdot.state.md.us



Col. Jerry Jones spoke at the National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) event with U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on November 16.



Maryland held its TIM event the day before with State and local officials including Howard County Police Chief and MCPA President Gary Gardner (right).