

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: January 4, 2023

Date: December 21, 2022

Action Transmittal: 2023-02

Adoption of 2023 Safety Performance Targets

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Planning Committee
Prepared By: Jed Hanson, Planner, 651-602-1716

Requested Action

Request that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommend the 2023 safety performance targets for adoption by the Metropolitan Council.

Recommended Motion

That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of the 2023 safety performance targets in Table 1.

Background and Purpose

All State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) must adopt a program to measure system performance and set performance targets to monitor progress. Targets for the safety performance measures are required annually. Safety is one of five categories for federally required performance measures. The safety targets serve a dual purpose:

- Inform planning and programming to reduce fatal and serious injuries
- Track performance of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

After the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) receives statewide safety targets from MnDOT annually in August, MPOs must either support the statewide target or choose an alternative target by February 27 the following year. Federal requirements specify five safety performance measures for both state DOTs and MPOs that must have annual targets:

1. Number of all fatalities
2. Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
3. Number of all serious injuries
4. Serious injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of combined pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries

Methodology

State DOTs are required to make significant progress on achieving their statewide safety targets; they are subject to additional HSIP requirements if they fail to make significant progress. MPOs are not subject to additional federal requirements if they fail to make significant progress.

The Council initially used the same methodology as MnDOT to calculate safety targets for the Council’s metropolitan planning area. In 2020, this method would have raised fatality targets. In response to local partner concerns, the Council recommended establishing a Safety Performance Work Group to recommend methodology changes. The work group convened in 2020 to recommend a new methodology.

The Council’s method sets safety targets on a straight-line decline from 2020 and 2021 targets to the region’s share of statewide goals in the 2020-2024 Minnesota Strategic Highway Safety Plan. This plan is intended for traffic safety partners at every level in Minnesota – state, regional, county, and local levels of government. It acknowledges the long-term goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on roads in the state, and the plan sets a five-year goal to reduce traffic deaths to 225 or fewer statewide and serious injuries to 980 or fewer statewide by 2025, on the way to the long-term goal of zero. The 2040 Transportation Policy Plan supports the long-term goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on roads in our region. Based on average performance from 2015-2019, the region’s share of 2025 statewide goals are:

- 74 fatal injuries,
- 464 serious injuries, and
- 115 pedestrian and bicycle fatal and serious injuries.

Proposed Targets

At its November 15, 2022, meeting, the Safety Performance Work Group reviewed year-to-date crash data and reaffirmed its support for continuing the use of the Council’s methodology for 2023, which reduces the targets annually to reach the region’s share of MnDOT’s 2025 Strategic Highway Safety Plan goals.

Using this methodology, 2023 targets would be as shown in bold in Table 1. An estimate of later year targets is shown as illustration of target progression toward the statewide goal. The Council will still be asked to set targets annually.

Table 1: Proposed Targets

Year	Number of All Fatalities	Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	Number of All Serious Injuries	Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT	Number of Pedestrian & Bicyclist Fatalities & Serious Injuries
2023	90	0.33	600	2.18	147
2024	82	0.29	532	1.91	131
2025	74	0.26	464	1.64	115

Relationship to Regional Policy

The current 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) includes performance measures to monitor and assess system performance. The proposed safety performance measures and targets directly support the Safety and Security goal of the 2040 TPP, while fulfilling federal requirements for an MPO. Reducing crash injuries to or below the regional safety targets will take coordinated action on resource allocation, policies, and investment decisions from partners at all levels in the region.

Staff Analysis

Safety performance notably worsened in 2021 against the adopted target and prior year performance. Safety performance in 2022 has already missed annual targets as of October 31. If the current year trend continues, total fatalities will reach a similar level to 2021 and total serious injuries may approach 1,000. Year-to-date pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious



injuries have sharply increased over prior years. Bicyclist serious injuries have doubled compared to 2020 and 2021, and they have increased by half over the pre-pandemic average.

Table 2 describes performance against the five measures over the past three years and the current year. Grey cells indicate measures where actual performance missed the adopted target. For example, the fatalities target for 2022 was 98, but between January and the end of October, there were 154 fatalities, so this target will not be achieved.

Table 3 describes performance against the five measures over the past three years and the current year. Grey cells indicate measures where actual performance missed the adopted target. January-October performance for 2022 only includes crashes in the 7-county metro area.

Table 2: Measure Performance

Measure	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Jan-Oct Actual*
All Fatalities	108	131	106	121	106	188	98	154
Fatal Injury Rate per 100m VMT	0.34	0.45	0.34	0.50	0.36	0.69	0.33	TBD
All Serious Injuries	748	699	738	691	738	792	669	856
Serious Injury Rate per 100m VMT	2.37	2.39	2.36	2.86	2.49	2.91	2.24	TBD
Non-Motorized Fatal & Serious Injuries	190	182	181	157	181	185	164	218

*January-October performance for 2022 only includes crashes in the 7-county metro area.

Table 3: Year-to-Date Performance with Non-Motorized Disaggregation

Measure	January-October 2022*	Change (Total) over January-October in Prior Years		
		2021	2020	2017-2019 Average
All Fatalities	154	▼ -1% (156)	▲ 54% (100)	▲ 45% (106.3)
Pedestrian Fatalities	22	▼ -29% (31)	▲ 47% (15)	▲ 3% (21.3)
Bicyclist Fatalities	3	▲ 50% (2)	▼ -40% (5)	▼ -31% (4.3)
All Serious Injuries	856	▲ 29% (664)	▲ 41% (609)	▲ 27% (671.7)
Pedestrian Serious Injuries	133	▲ 36% (98)	▲ 62% (82)	▲ 35% (98.7)
Bicyclist Serious Injuries	60	▲ 94% (31)	▲ 94% (31)	▲ 49% (40.3)

*January-October performance for 2022 only includes crashes in the 7-county metro area.



Committee Comments and Actions

At its December 8, 2022 meeting, the TAC Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the 2023 safety performance targets in Table 1.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (<i>Scheduled</i>)
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	December 8, 2022
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	<i>January 4, 2023</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	<i>January 18, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	<i>February 13, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council	Adopt	<i>February 22, 2023</i>

