

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION P.O. Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

July 28, 2020

Robert Clark, Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division 840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 202 West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am pleased to provide New Jersey's 2021 Safety Performance Targets required to be reported for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) intends to include these targets in New Jersey's Annual Safety Report this year. These targets were established after careful consideration of previous trends, recently built projects and the current socioeconomic environment. The targets are based on five year rolling average values and are reported to satisfy federal requirements with the understanding that New Jersey's safety vision is to achieve zero deaths on all public roads. This long-term safety vision requires time to change attitudes and behaviors and to construct infrastructure improvements to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.

The 2015 New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) guides the allocation of safety funding and resources to reduce highway fatalities and serious injuries on New Jersey's public roadways. The 2015 SHSP is data driven, sets long-term goals, and is a coordinated statewide plan that identifies the most significant infrastructure and behavioral safety issues on New Jersey's public roads. The 2015 SHSP identified 16 key safety emphasis areas, including Lane Departure, Drowsy and Distracted Driving, Aggressive Driving, Intersections, Pedestrians and Bicyclists, and Mature Drivers, and the supporting strategies that are likely to have the greatest impact on improving safety on our roadways.

NJDOT is committed to directing resources to these infrastructure related safety strategies as we diligently strive to drive down fatalities and serious injuries with an ultimate safety vision of zero deaths.

To satisfy 23 CFR 924.15(a)(1)(iii)(B) requirements, the following are the targets set by New Jersey Department of Transportation for 2021 Safety Performance Measures, based on 5 year rolling averages:

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET 2017-2021 - 5 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE	BASELINE 2015-2019 - 5 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	574.0	582.6
RATE OF FATALITIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	0.740	0.756
NUMBER OF SERIOUS INJURIES	2124.8 <sup>1</sup>	1469.2
RATE OF SERIOUS INJURIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	2.724 <sup>1</sup>	1.900
NUMBER OF NON-MOTORIZED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES	588.5 <sup>1</sup>	463.7

1 Beginning in 2019, New Jersey updated the police crash report to be consistent with the federally required injury classifications (Killed, Suspected Serious Injury, Suspected Minor Injury, Possible Injury, and No Apparent Injury). As a result of this change, injuries not previously attributed to the serious injury classification are now included in this number. For example, a crash victim with a broken arm that would have previously been classified as a Moderate injury, is now classified as Suspected Serious Injury. As a result, New Jersey saw a 116% increase in reported serious injuries due to the changes in reporting. This large increase creates a challenge in predicting anticipated totals for future years.

Projected annual values are trending down, as indicated below.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET 2021 ANNUAL	BASELINE 2019 ANNUAL
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	560	562
RATE OF FATALITIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	0.716	0.718
NUMBER OF SERIOUS INJURIES	2700	2768
RATE OF SERIOUS INJURIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	3.452	3.538
NUMBER OF NON-MOTORIZED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES	697	713

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NJDOT's target setting process included coordination with NJ's three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and FHWA's NJ Division Office, along with NJ's Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS) to ensure a consistent approach for target setting. The identified targets reflect coordination and collaboration with NJ's Governor's Highway Safety Representative. The selected targets for number of fatalities, fatality rates, and number of serious injuries are consistent with the targets which will be reported in NJ's Highway Safety Plan by the Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Commissioner

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