



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

August 20, 2021

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 2022 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 "Towards 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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 SHSP identified 7 key safety emphasis areas, including Lane Departure, Intersections, Pedestrians & Bicyclists, Driver Behavior, Other Vulnerable Road Users, Data and Equity, 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 the infrastructure related safety strategies as we diligently strive to drive down fatalities and serious injuries with an ultimate safety vision of "Towards Zero Deaths".

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To satisfy 23 CFR 924.15(a)(1)(iii)(B) requirements, the following are the targets set by New Jersey Department of Transportation for 2022 Safety Performance Measures, based on 5 year rolling averages:

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET 2018-2022 - 5 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE	BASELINE 2016-2020 - 5 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	565.0 ²	586.6
RATE OF FATALITIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	0.766 ^{2,3}	0.792
NUMBER OF SERIOUS INJURIES	2537.2 ^{1,2}	1782.1
RATE OF SERIOUS INJURIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	3.440 ^{1,2,3}	2.442
NUMBER OF NON-MOTORIZED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES	754.1 ^{1,2}	585.0

1. Beginning in 2019, New Jersey updated the police crash report to be consistent with the federally required 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 the serious injuries numbers for 2019 and 2020. 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 an increase in reported serious injuries due to the changes in reporting. The increase creates a challenge in predicting anticipated totals for future years as well.

2. The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 led to a decrease in VMT and an unexpected increase in fatalities in New Jersey, with similar trends nationwide. The decrease in VMT, and increase in pedestrians and bicyclist, led to an increase in the severity of crashes.

3. Because 2020 was an anomalous year, it posed unique data challenges. There was a reduction in VMT in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 which impacted the fatality rates and serious injury rates. The previous trends and models are rendered ineffective. We are currently seeking guidance from FHWA regarding how to address 2020 data moving forward.

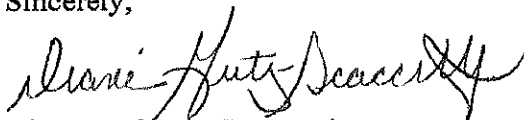
Projected annual values are trending down, except Serious Injuries, as indicated below.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET 2022 ANNUAL	BASELINE 2020 ANNUAL
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	550	585
RATE OF FATALITIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	0.70	0.93
NUMBER OF SERIOUS INJURIES	2921	2423
RATE OF SERIOUS INJURIES PER 100 MILLION VMT	3.860	3.730
NUMBER OF NON-MOTORIZED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES	804	894

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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