

MINUTES
Public Feedback Meeting
Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan
February 5, 2025
6pm
Easton, MD

6:00 Introductions and Meeting Expectations

The MD Highway Safety Office introduced their team. Crash Core introduced their team.

6:15 What is the Strategic Highway Safety Plan?

Crash Core explained the need for and the contents of the MD Strategic Highway Safety Plan, including how many agencies in the state of MD collaborate on traffic safety concerns.

6:30 Open Forum: Public Opinion on Traffic Safety Priorities

Emphasis Area Feedback

Pedestrian and Bicycle

- Lack of sidewalks and lack of areas to cross for pedestrians on Rt 50
- Crosswalk technology is costly, especially for smaller jurisdictions. Some have been installed, they are expensive to obtain and do not address the area's speeding issues. Implementing technology to decrease speeding occurrences would require even more funding.
- Is there data being collected in regard to EMS/Fire/Law enforcement that have been struck while working on the highway?
- Complaints of only having two intersections for pedestrians to cross along Rt. 50
- E-Bikes
 - Trying to regulate E-Bikes has been difficult
 - They have been a danger on trails in the area due to speed
 - Would placing speed limits on trails be beneficial?
 - How do they interact with bicyclists
 - Difficulty trying to figure out how to give everyone (pedestrians, bicyclists, E-bike riders, etc.) their space in a safe way.
 - Trying to figure out how to make older areas/streets more bike friendly
 - E Bike registration with the MVA (There seemed to be support for the 2025 bill that proposes registering all bikes – it was mentioned this would help insurance companies if an injury to another takes place)

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Impaired Driving

- Where are we with impaired driving and THC?
- Learning about indicators of a driving under the influence of cannabis, using green labs in Montgomery County

Speed and Aggressive Driving

- Asked “Can they put speed cameras at railroad crossings?”
- Does SHSP help identify priority safety corridors - could they be added to the SHSP?
- Rt. 50 speed is too high causing accidents and hitting pedestrians. Would like to see a decrease in speed (50 --> 45 --> 35 mph)
- They have very limited automated enforcement in the area especially on RT. 50
- Automated law enforcement is needed in Easton on Rt 50
- A review of current AE bill is under review to consider additional locations
- Residents are complaining that people are traveling too fast on local roads
- More safety corridors are needed on the Eastern shore

Car Seats/Occupant protection

- Write a lot of warnings for traffic infractions (I believe when Janet asked a clarifying question this comment was changed to “a lot of warnings for ALL emphasis areas compared to the number of tickets issues prior to the Floyd Factor)
- Saw a decrease/flip in 2020 in the number of people using occupant protections in vehicles
- Police write a lot more warnings in regard to children in car seats and seat belts
- They have decreased the number of police stops in 2020 and are now beginning to rebound those numbers
- Overall number of car stops have decreased since 2020

Other Topics

Motorcycles

- Reflective gear and vibrant colors aren't being recognized on pedestrians and bicyclists and really aren't being recognized on motorcyclists leading to crashes (this comment related to new self-driving vehicle technology with no driver involvement)
- Autonomous assisted driving “may not work as well”
- Having a data dashboard is vital to be able to have one of these plans (Easton’s dashboard received lots of compliments and is being used by many)
- Issues getting people to show up to motorcycle safety training - classes in Maryland are costly compared to those in PA
- Having trouble getting their hands on real-time data due to HIPPA
- Want to see more motorcycle safety awareness
- Proclamations are being done in local communities and that brings attention
- They want to do more advertisement but not just on social media. Want more “old school” advertising. (However, many stated no one reads the local newspaper, there is only one radio station, and TV is too costly)
- They are concerned about how and where to push the campaign

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General

- Does SHSP coordinate with the county's comprehensive plan?
- Disconnect between the general assembly and vision zero/zero deaths
- See zerodeathsmd.gov for information on attending Emphasis Area team meetings
- MHSO is doing more legislator education on traffic safety issues

Social Media

- Local law enforcement is trying to use social media to push out certain driver safety campaigns in the area
- Residents aren't paying attention to what's being posted
- No matter how much effort they're putting into social media campaigns people in the area "aren't getting it"
- They are having trouble with ad campaigns on cable because so many households watch TV via streaming services now
- Considering more motorcycle education
- There is a GHSA project for videos on distracted driving
 - Popular Locations in Easton/Surrounding Area for video campaign
 - Court house
 - Cambridge
 - Downtown
 - Tidewater Inn
 - Town Hall