

Improving Data Accuracy for Traffic Crashes

Meeting date: February 10, 2025

Meeting time: 2-3 pm

Attendance: Tuesday Black, John Ziadeh, Scott Spinks, Matt Duncan, Crystal Soderman, Allison Rosenthal, Rita Rochelle, Katie Contos, Alyssa Herrin, David Swenka, Dwayne Liller, Erik Braaten, Ian Danielson, John Ziadeh, Kara Mueller, Logan Hurt, Paul Clayton, Rachel Reinhardt, Reagan Chiaverini; John Ziadeh,

Agenda:

- A brief introduction in Chat
- Interests in leading this subcommittee
 - Rita and Regan, going forward
- Survey- Allison and Rita
 - What traffic safety data issues impede your work
 - Improved timeliness and completeness of tox data from coroners and hospitals
 - Need more context
 - limitations of tox data
 - missing and inconsistent data
 - What would you like to get out of subcommittee
 - Defined scope and problem state
 - Greater comprehension of current data systems and limitations
 - Improved timeliness and completeness
 - Next steps
 - Additional information and perspectives
 - Goals of subcommittee from STRAC
 - Issues in traffic safety data be addressed by this subcommittee
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Write own report
 - ID possibly partnerships across agencies
 - Other Options
 - From Group—are any agencies already doing this?
 - Scott/Crystal met with TRC and cross over work between committees, Scott represents the STRAC, how do we enhance what we are doing

- Training and Technology, and which one to focus on and reaching to LE agencies—very challenging who to reach out with all the agencies across CO; example meeting with DPD and noticed with data of non-motorists and data was missing from records and thinking it is a tech issue
- Videos on trainings
https://www.codot.gov/about/committees/strac/copy_of_dr-3447-crash-training-videos
- What is the scope of this subcommittee—we need to focus on impairment and our goal is to have accurate information on impaired driving crashes involving fatality and or SBI and Officer’s opinion vs. toxicology. After crash and early on, Officer Opinion is all that we have until we get toxicology which takes a long time to get (weeks to months) and if report gets updated
- Drafted mission statement, Matt Duncan
 - Our mission is to ensure that crash investigations are informed by accurate and comprehensive impairment data. Without precise data, proposed traffic safety solutions risk being ineffective or misdirected. By working closely with police investigators, hospitals, and coroners and medical examiner offices, we strive to uncover the true role of impairment in fatal crashes—ensuring that prevention efforts are based on facts, not assumptions, and that every intervention has the greatest possible impact on saving lives. Our current initiative as part of CDOT’s Drunk and Impaired Driving Task Force is dedicated to ensuring that all practitioners have access to and utilize accurate impairment data, strengthening our collective ability to prevent future tragedies
 - Thoughts—could be more specific
 - We could consider a focus on the accuracy from the start with officer reporting, and ways we can give them better support in collection
 - Making sure smaller agencies have the tools, reinforce importance of amending reports with updated data
 - **Revised Mission:** Our mission is to improve accuracy from the beginning of impaired driving crash investigation reports from law enforcement officers. By working closely with hospitals, coroners, and medical examiner offices, we strive to uncover the true role of impairment in serious injury and fatal crashes, which will improve our prevention efforts based on facts and not assumptions. Our current initiative as part of the CTFDID is dedicated to ensuring that all practitioners have access to and utilize accurate impaired driving data, strengthening our collective ability to prevent future tragedies.
 - Overview of Lakewood’s Report- Matt Duncan
 - Impairment is most off for us (Lakewood PD) for Death impairment and cases where we have to rely on the coroner; “non-chargeable” due to fatality
 - Group—is there a position or positions to track down missing information?
 - Nothing indicated impairment on scene and they answer “no” so the data is wrong and not missing

- Slides and information from “Behind the Yellow Tape” Key Data and Investigative Insights and understanding the problem
 - Ex: Pedestrian that was impaired on meth what hit by driver after approaching cars and driver was not impaired
 - EX: Single car fatality, person not wearing seatbelt no signs of impairment on scene and case closed and later impairment from Cocaine was found out
 - Jefferson County Unintentional Drug Overdoses
 - Using Pedestrian’s as an example
 - It is the engineers that are in the dark except for that one piece that we need to capture better
 - No requirements for updated data to come to DOR and identify statutes that authorizes the correct individuals to share the data and the correct individuals to update the records and as a recommendation we change the following laws.....
 - FARS to DOR could help and the only unknown is the Hospital Association data when person doesn’t die on scene but Corner data is received
 - HIPPA
 - CDOT/FARS is happy to share data
 - Early notification system-Officer opinion shows deaths on CDOT website and its preliminary
 - sounds like FARS is close (for fatalities) and available to those who need it. It seems maybe the issue we are circling is about timeliness, to me that goes back to Crystals point - authorizing coroners or toxicologists to update the official crash record data would provide more timely tox data that then flows to CDOT.
 - Set up meeting to discuss legislative next steps

● Review data available per agency, Google Excel review

- What is publicly available, and what is redacted?
 - CDPHE
 - DPS
 - DOR
 - CDOT
 - Judicial/Allison/ Rita
 - NHTSA- Kara
- Flow Chart/Mapping - Alyssa Herrin, John Ziadeh, Paul Clayton

Please put information into below if you haven't already:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17S137MwsEq3PAp7UmL8UOS0vQeHNk7b4TjvALG3fGF4/edit?usp=sharing>

- Transition of Calendar invites from Tuesday's calendar to Katie Contos's Calendar
- Next Meeting- March 10 at 2-3 pm