



U.S. DOT National Roadway Safety Strategy

March 10, 2022
Chou-Lin Chen, Ph.D.

The Foundation at U.S. DOT: Safety

Mission: To ensure our Nation has the safest, most equitable, reliable, and modern transportation system in the world to increase economic strength, improve climate outcomes, and build global competitiveness for the American people.





Our Vision

Zero is the only acceptable number of deaths on our highways, roads, and streets.

The United States Department of Transportation is committed to taking substantial, comprehensive action to significantly reduce serious and fatal injuries on the Nation's roadways.

At USDOT, we support all efforts to achieve **zero.**



National Roadway Safety Strategy

U.S. DOT's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets.

- ❖ **Sets a Department-wide vision and goal**
- ❖ **Adopts the Safe System Approach**
- ❖ **Identifies new priority actions and notable changes to existing practices**
- ❖ **Leverages new funding and policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to bring this strategy to life**
- ❖ **Advances equity and climate goals**
- ❖ **Calls others to action**



Image Credit: NHTSA



The USDOT adopts the **Safe System Approach**

Principles

- ❖ Deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable
- ❖ Humans make mistakes
- ❖ Humans are vulnerable
- ❖ Responsibility is shared
- ❖ Safety is proactive
- ❖ Redundancy is critical

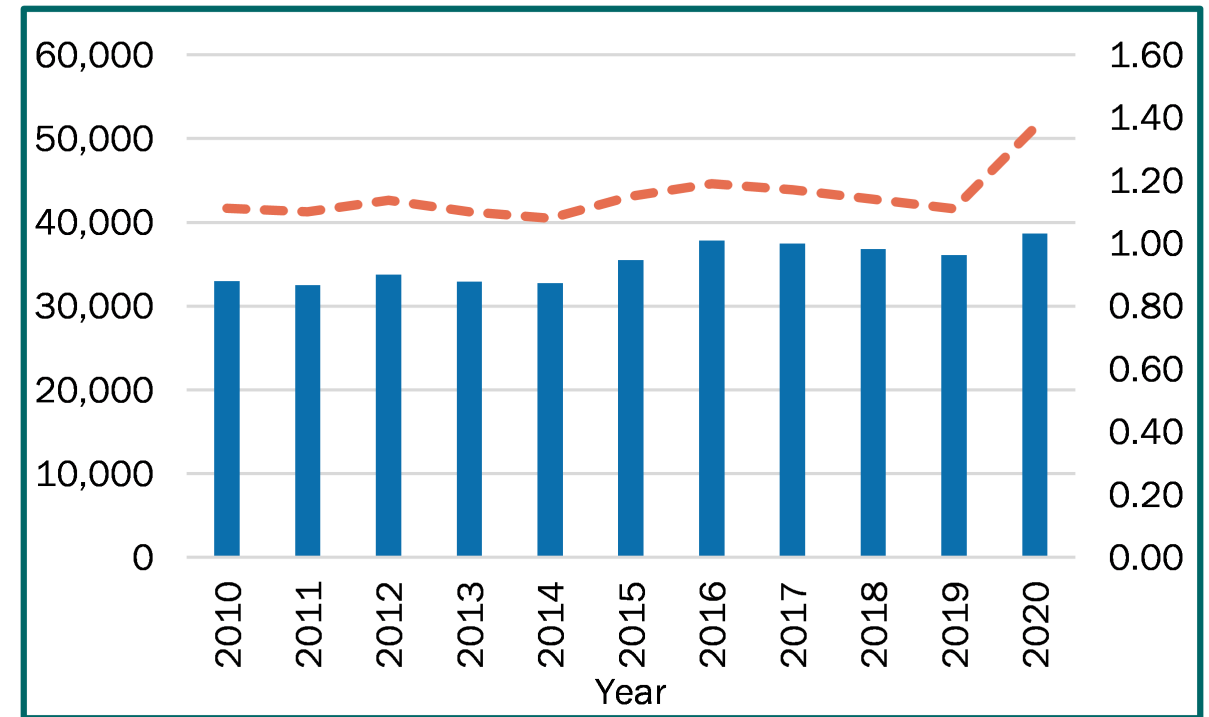
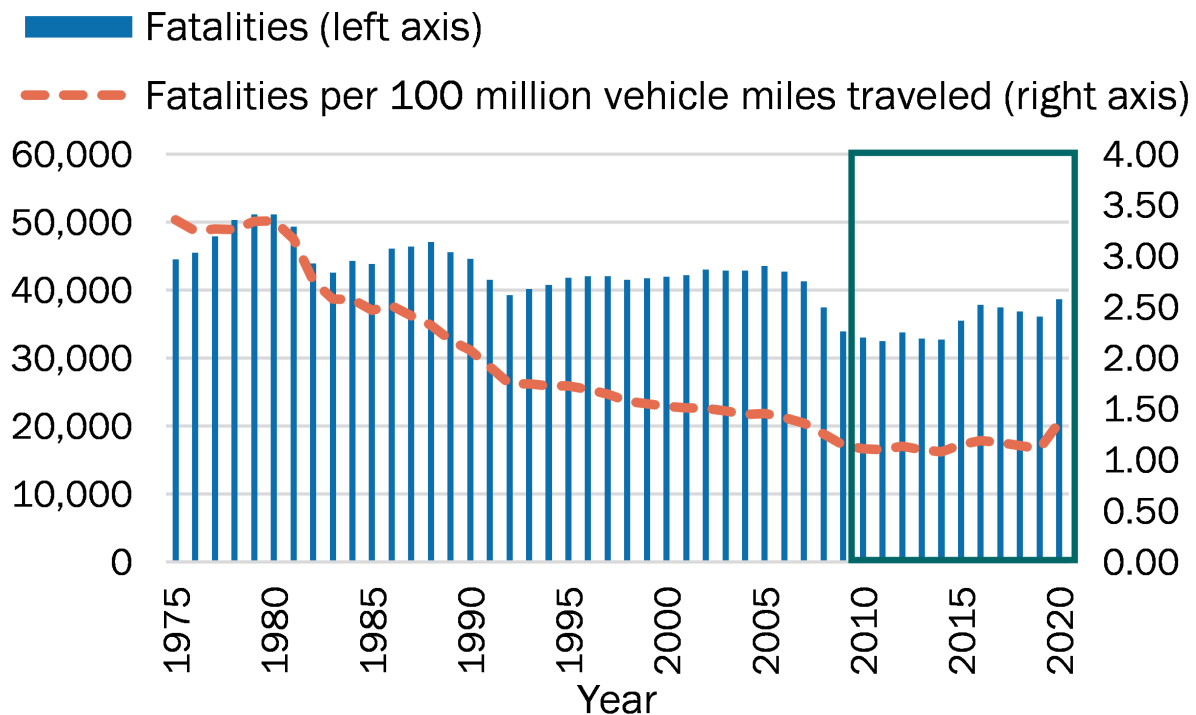




Our Roadway Safety Problem

We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

Roadway fatalities and the fatality rate declined consistently for 30 years...



...but progress has stalled over the last decade...



We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

The crisis on our roadways **continues to worsen** based on an early estimate of roadway fatalities in 2021:

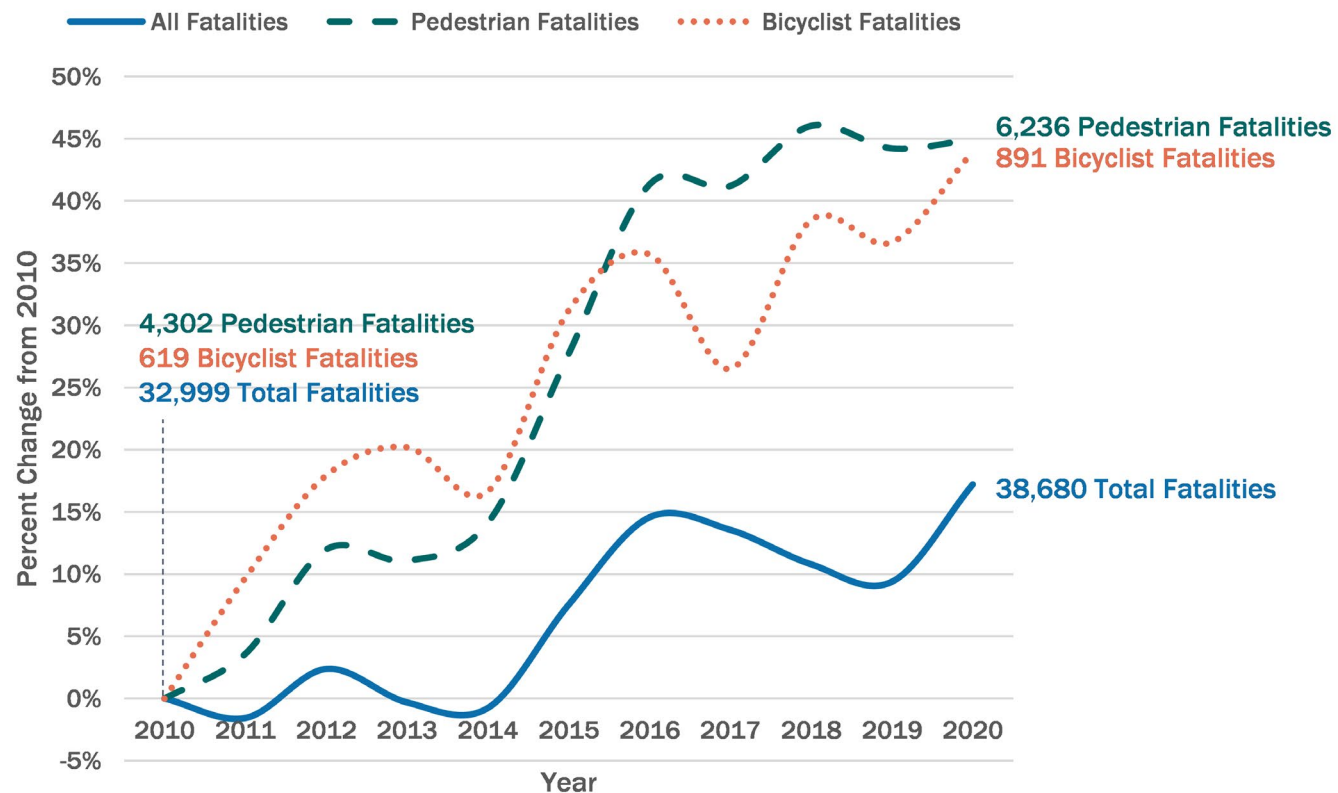
Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities, first three quarters, 2020 vs. 2021		
January – September <u>2020 Estimates</u>	January – September <u>2021 Estimates</u>	Percent Increase from 2020 to 2021
28,325	31,720	12.0%

The estimated fatalities for the first three quarters of 2021 is the largest number of projected fatalities in that time period since 2006.

We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

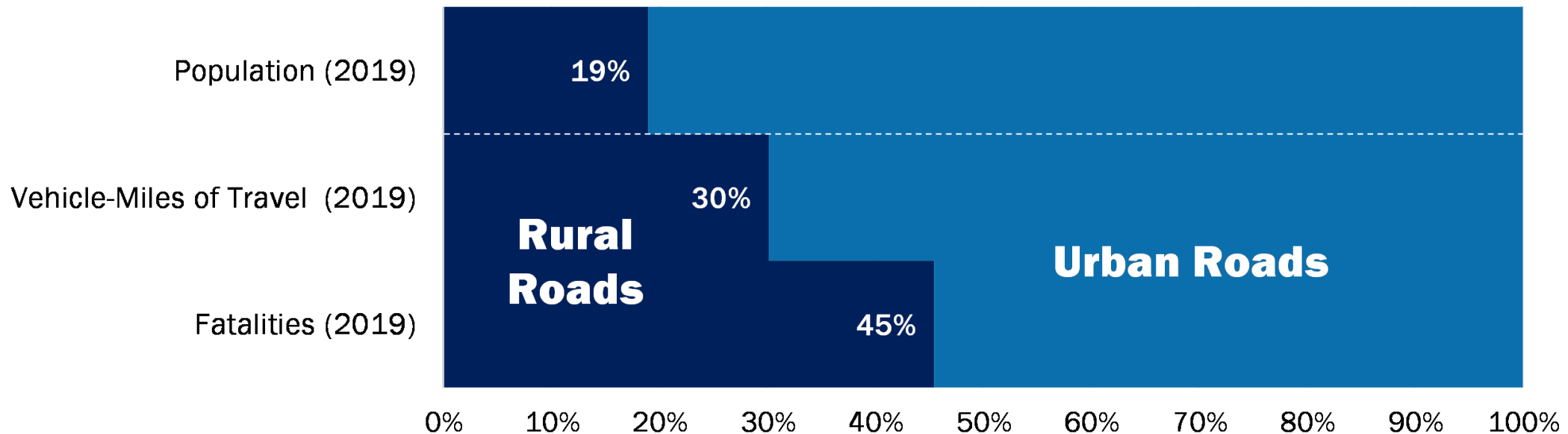
Fatalities among **all users** have been increasing.

Fatalities among **pedestrians** and **bicyclists** have been **increasing even faster**.



We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

Fatalities and **fatal crashes occur disproportionately** -
by both population and vehicle travel – **on rural roads**.





The National Roadway Safety Strategy



National Roadway Safety Strategy

USDOT will leverage the funding and policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to bring this strategy to life:

- **Nearly \$14 billion in NEW funding** for road safety including:
 - **\$6 billion** authorized for a new **Safe Streets and Roads for All** program to fund local efforts to reduce crashes and fatalities
 - **~ \$4 billion** added to HSIP
 - **~ \$4 billion** for improved data collection, vehicle safety programs, and truck safety

In the Senate of the United States,

August 10, 2021.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3684) entitled “An Act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “In-
3 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act”.

4 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. References.

DIVISION A—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 10001. Short title.
Sec. 10002. Definitions.
Sec. 10003. Effective date.



National Roadway Safety Strategy

- To address roadway safety, we require a holistic, comprehensive approach
- Objectives correspond to the Safe System Approach elements

Safer People
Safer Roads
Safer Vehicles
Safer Speeds
Post-Crash Care

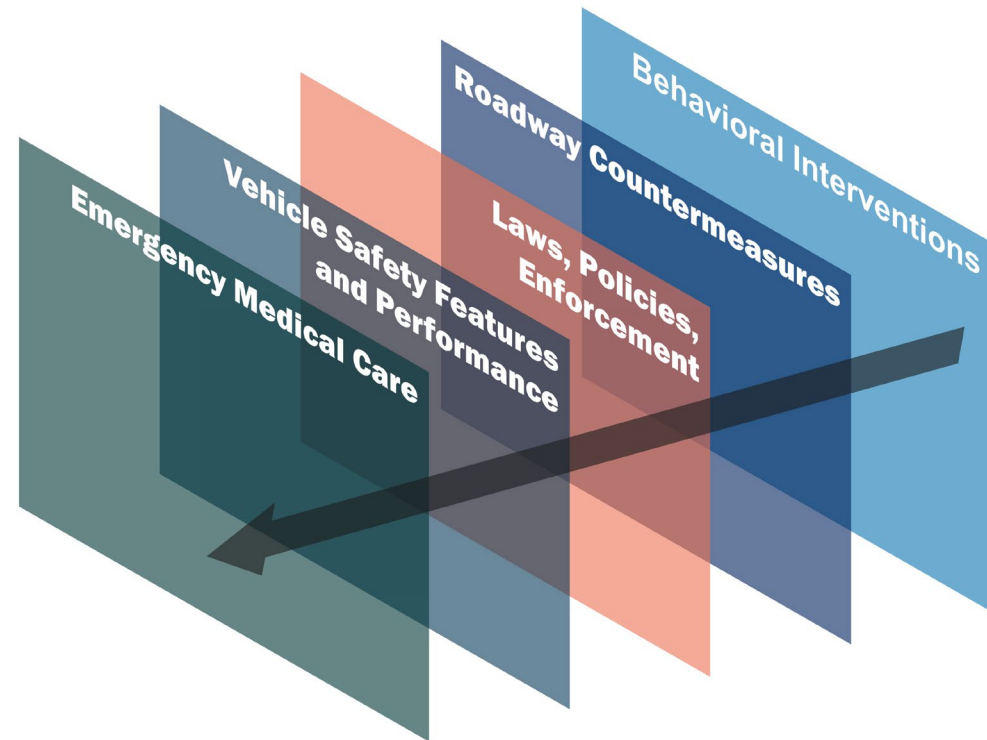




Image Credit: © ambrozio / stock.adobe.com

***Encourage safe,
responsible behavior by
people who use our roads
and create conditions
that prioritize their ability
to reach their destination
unharmmed.***



Image Credit: FHWA

Design roadway environments to mitigate human mistakes and account for injury tolerances, to encourage safer behaviors, and to facilitate safe travel by the most vulnerable users.



Image Credit: © Nomad_Soul / stock.adobe.com

Expand the availability of vehicle systems and features that help to prevent crashes and minimize the impact of crashes on both vehicle occupants and non-vehicle occupants.



Image Credit: © Alexander Oganov / stock.adobe.com

Promote safer speeds in all roadway environments through a combination of thoughtful, context-appropriate roadway design, targeted education and outreach campaigns, and enforcement.



Post-Crash Care



Image Credit: NHTSA

Enhance the survivability of crashes through expedient access to emergency medical care. Create a safe working environment for vital first responders and preventing secondary crashes through robust traffic incident management practices.



National Roadway Safety Strategy



Learn more about the National Roadway Safety Strategy

www.transportation.gov/NRSS