

Successful Strategies for Motorcyclist Safety

U.S. Domestic Scan # 09-04



Overview

- **Sponsoring Organizations**
- **Scan Team**
- **Itinerary**
- **Scan Purpose and Goals**
- **Results**
- **Recommendations and Implementation Activities**

Sponsoring Organizations



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Scan Team Members

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Team Members

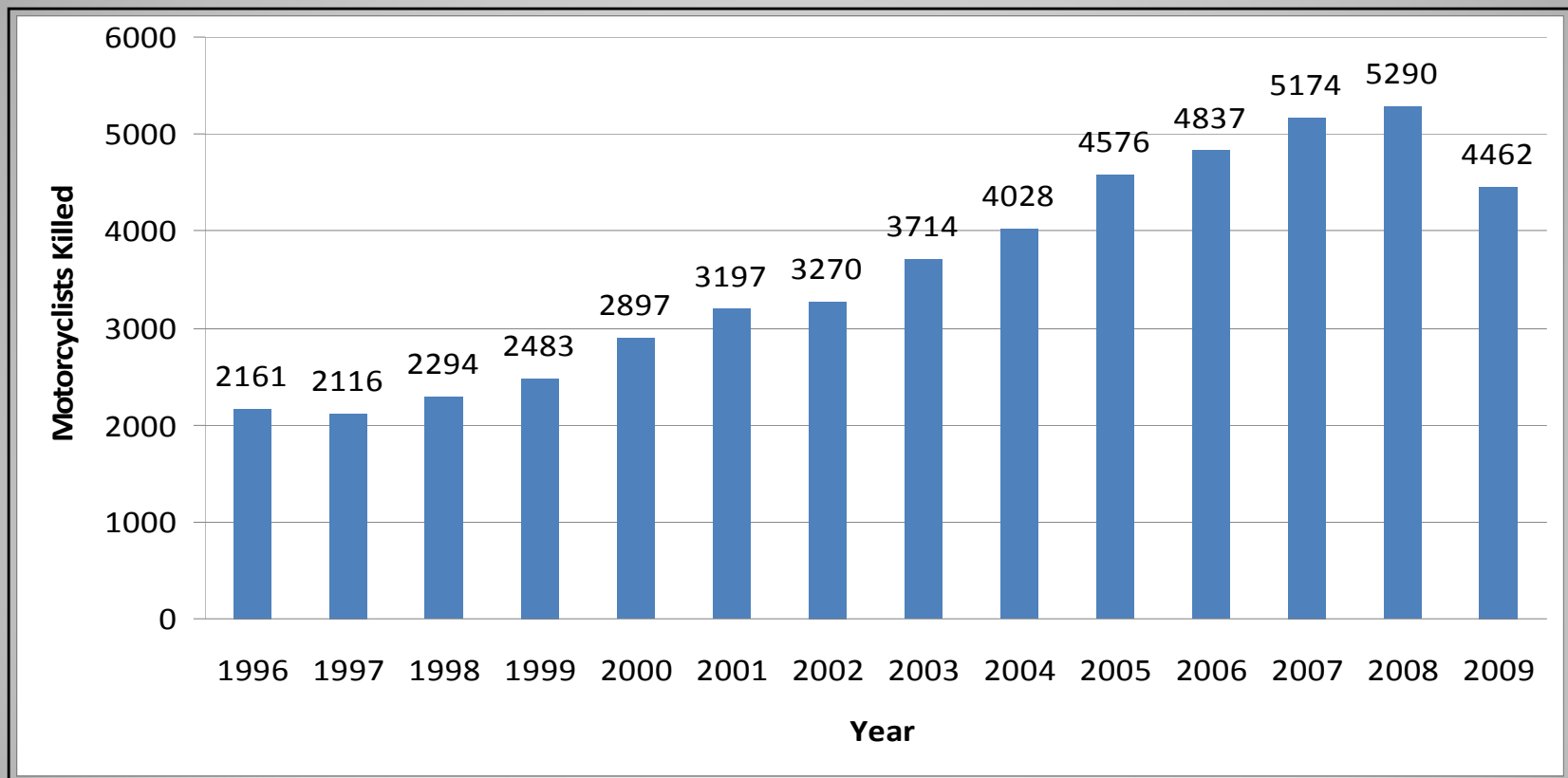


Not shown is Co-chair Dennis Heuer

Background

- **Motorcyclist deaths rose 145%** from 1996 to 2008
- **Motorcyclists are more vulnerable** to roadway conditions
- **Awareness of low-cost roadway infrastructure countermeasures** to enhance motorcyclist safety is limited among state agencies

Motorcyclist Fatalities (1996-2009)



USA 2009 Motorcycle Safety Facts

Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, Motorcycles, 2008 Data and NHTSA National Occupant Protection Use Survey

- **4,462 motorcyclists fatalities and 90,000 injuries**
- **35% of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding**
- **22% of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes had invalid licenses**
- **36% of motorcyclists killed had a BAC \geq 0.08**
- **67% of motorcyclists wear helmets**

State Programs

- **Focus on rider training**
- **Reduce alcohol use and speeding**
- **Helmet laws have been overturned**
- **No guidance on infrastructure improvements**

Scan Goals

- **Identify infrastructure design, construction, maintenance and operations practices** that promote motorcyclist safety and are being implemented by selected States
- **Recommend successful infrastructure countermeasures** for enhancing motorcyclist safe travel
- **Develop effective implementation strategies**

Scan Topics – Infrastructure

- **Roadway design**

- **Construction**

 - Materials (friction)

 - Guardrail type and placement

 - Left turn signal actuators

 - Shoulder width, edge drop off

- **Maintenance and operations**

 - Work zone and hazardous area signage

 - Milling and paving

 - Sweeping/debris removal

 - Steel plates, lane markings, tar snakes

Scan Topics – Travel and Event Planning

- **Examining fleet composition and operator demographics**

- Definition of a motorcycle

- Characteristics of riders and drivers

- Increasing numbers of motorcycles and scooters

- **Management of motorcycling events**

- Traffic management

- Law enforcement

- Safety messages

Data Collection and Analysis

- **Availability and content of crash data**
- **Linking crash, injury and rider datasets**
- **Motorcycle volumes**
- **Data driven decisions**



Communication and Coordination

- **Stakeholder interaction**
- **Sharing of successful strategies among states and the federal government**
- **Information dissemination among agencies and with the motoring public**

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition

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Domestic Scan 09-04
Best Practices in Successful Strategies
for Motorcycle Safety

3/14/2011 – 3/16/2011

Motorcycle Advocacy

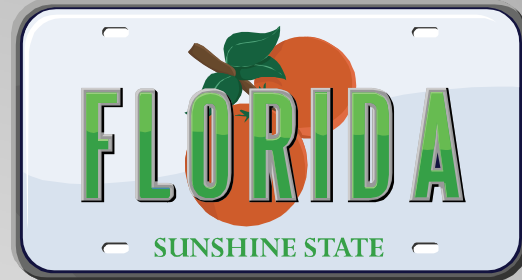
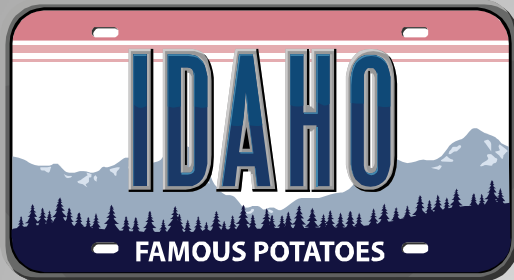
**Road design, construction,
maintenance, operations,**



**law enforcement
practices,
coordination,
outreach,**

**access to information, safety
concerns**

States Included in Scan



Organizations Included in Scan



Scan Results

The Team reviewed the information provided by all of the scan participants and developed recommendations and outreach initiatives to promote the adoption of successful strategies



Recommendations

1. Create motorcycle safety coalitions

These should include stakeholders such as highway engineering, construction, maintenance and operations staff, law enforcement agencies, medical staff, rider training personnel, local community leaders, and advocacy groups

Recommendations

Coalition mission statements and formal business plans should be accompanied by regularly scheduled meetings several times per year

Recommendations

2. Publish road construction, maintenance and hazardous condition information on State DOT websites, and through social media, and send it to rider groups

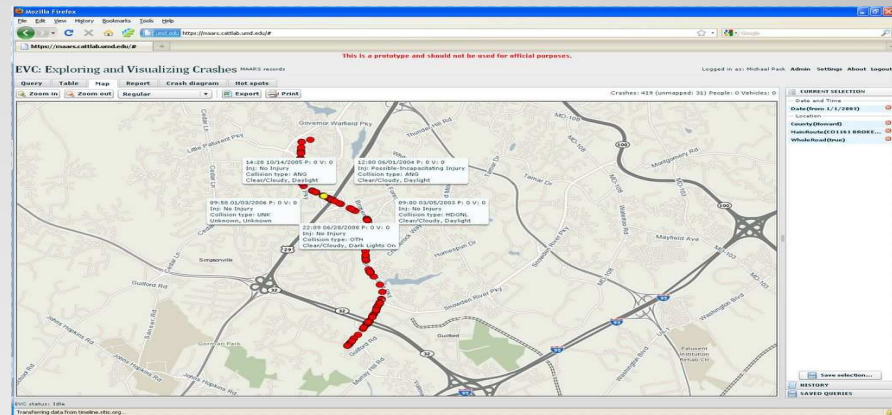
Allow for the reporting of such information *from* the public



**Communications Brief: State Departments
of Transportation
Lead the Way
Using New Media**

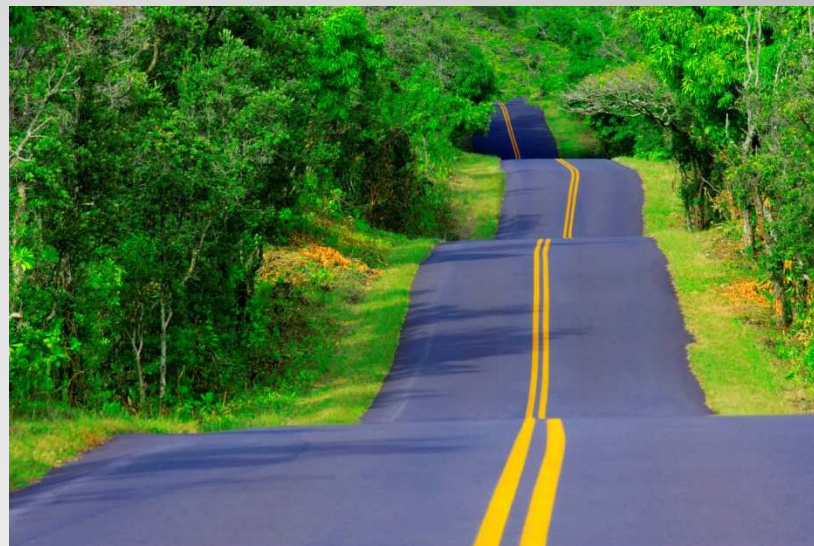
AreWeThereYet.transportation.org February 2010

3. Geocode crash locations to identify “hot spots”



Recommendations

4. Share best practices information at the city and county levels



Recommendations

5. **Adopt and customize safety practices and materials available from other States and the federal government**



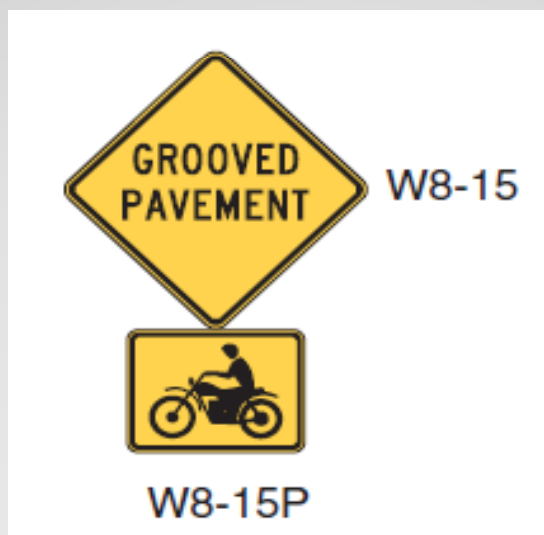
Recommendations

6. Improve traction on painted and metal surfaces



Recommendations

- 7. Change the MUTCD guideline for the motorcycle placard from “may” to “shall” to increase usage**



Recommendations

8. Establish technically sound methods for collecting motorcycle volume data



Recommendations

9.



Improve awareness of motorcycle safety issues and training opportunities for highway design, construction, and maintenance and operations personnel

Visibility and Warning

- ◆ Consider motorcyclist hazard warning signs. Signage targeted toward motorcyclists can warn of conditions that are especially hazardous for them. These might include uneven pavement surfaces, rumblestrips or crosswinds.
- ◆ Ensure visibility of signs and roadway markings. Keep in mind that many motorcycles have only a single headlamp for illumination.



The Integrated Safety Solution— Safe Drivers, Safe Vehicles, Safe Roads

Safer roadways are just a small part of the solution to reducing the alarming trend toward increased motorcyclist injuries and fatalities. Motorcyclists should equip themselves with helmets and other protective clothing and equipment, get professional training, maximize their conspicuity through lighting and apparel, obtain the proper motorcycle license, and absolutely never drink and ride. Motorcycles should be properly maintained and operated. All road users, including drivers, motorcycle riders, and pedestrians need to obey the rules of the road and respect the rights of all. Only by addressing the problem from all angles can we achieve the desired result of safer roadways for all users.

For More Information

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Roadway Safety for Motorcycles

Tips for
Designing,
Constructing,
and Maintaining
Roadways for Increased
Motorcycle Safety



Safe Roads for a Safer Future
Investment in roadway safety saves lives

Next Steps –Outreach

- **Promote the key findings through a detailed final report**
- **Provide formal presentations at professional meetings**
- **Share results with colleagues**
- **Serve as catalysts to encourage the adoption of successful practices for infrastructure improvements**