Law Enforcement and Transportation: Working Together on the Road to Zero

Transportation agencies are struggling to prevent road fatalities and injuries, which are on the increase in the United States.

Two national programs are bringing stakeholders together to decrease these fatalities: Road to Zero and Toward Zero Deaths. To reach zero, all safety stakeholders must work together, pool their resources, and make safety the guiding principle in every transportation decision.

Every day, law enforcement officers save lives through their highly visible and highly effective enforcement efforts to ensure driver compliance with safe driving laws.

Moreover, officers collect critical physical evidence that can guide future safety efforts – everything from where to put a stop sign to how many drivers are looking at their cell phones instead of the road.

Transportation agencies need and use all the information law enforcement collect. Here are some of the ways that law enforcement can assist with efforts to reach zero fatalities:

- Become a safety champion/advocate in your community.
- Attend or create a multi-disciplinary safety coalition or task force.
- Educate the public on critical road safety issues, with campaigns and social media.
- Host debriefings after a fatal crash or major weather event.
- Develop consistent practices in your agency to collect timely, accurate, and complete crash data.
- Participate in committees creating safety plans (e.g., Local Road Safety Plans, State Highway Safety Plans, Road Safety Audits, etc.). Contribute your “boots on the ground” knowledge to improve future plans.
Resources

For more information or to find out how to contact your local safety professionals, contact the National Center for Rural Road Safety at (844) 330-2200 or info@ruralsafetycenter.org.

- National Center for Rural Road Safety  
  [www.ruralsafetycenter.org](http://www.ruralsafetycenter.org)
- Toward Zero Deaths  
  [www.towardzerodeaths.org](http://www.towardzerodeaths.org)
- Road to Zero  
  [http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/The-Road-to-Zero.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/The-Road-to-Zero.aspx)
- IACP’s “Traffic Safety Strategies for Law Enforcement”  
- Integrating Public Safety and Highway Operations: A Policy Framework and Analysis  
  [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Speech%20Files/public_safety.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Speech%20Files/public_safety.htm)
- IACP Traffic Safety Initiatives  
  [http://www.theiacp.org/trafficsafety](http://www.theiacp.org/trafficsafety)
- Traffic incident management on rural roads training by responder safety network  
- FHWA’s Traffic Incident Management Webpage with multiple resources  
  [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/about/tim.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/about/tim.htm)
- Building Links to Improve Safety: How Safety and Transportation Planning Practitioners Work Together  
  [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tsp/fhwasa16116/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tsp/fhwasa16116/)
- Traffic Safety Legislative Fact Sheets  
- NHTSA's Campaign Materials for Risky Driving Types  
  [https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving)
- National Safety Council’s “Safety on the Road” Webpage with Campaign Materials  

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