

# Missouri's Blueprint – A Partnership Toward Zero Deaths

We are in the midst of a tragic trend in the State of Missouri. There were 946 fatalities on our roadways in 2016 which is the highest number we've seen since 2008. Fatalities were up nine percent in 2016 and they continue to be a leading cause of death for Missourians. The ultimate goal from the state's strategic highway safety plan is to move Missouri toward zero deaths. ([Attachment 1](#)) Everyone must work together to ensure NO lives are lost due to a traffic crash on our roadways and we all ARRIVE ALIVE.

## National Safety Council Report 2017

The National Safety Council "The State of Safety, A State-by-State Report" was issued in June, 2017. ([Attachment 2](#)) This report is a national snapshot of current state rankings. It outlines recommended policy actions and examples of promising practices that can help states save lives. While no state received an overall grade of "A", Missouri received a grade of F. The rankings were based on "percent of safety indicators in place" where Missouri ranked last with a percentage of 24 percent. In the category of Road Safety Issues, the ranking applies only to behavioral issues – not the safety of the infrastructure.

The following sub-category road safety issues were weighted by the expert panels. All indicators for each of the safety issues were summed up to determine sub-category grades of **On Track**, **Developing** and **Off Track** status.

- Alcohol Impaired driving: 16%
- Child Passengers: 16%
- Distracted Driving: 20%
- Older Drivers: 8%
- Seat Belts: 13%
- Speeding: 9%
- Teen Drivers: 12%
- Vulnerable Road Users: 6%

## Alcohol Impaired Driving

The report noted that Missouri had 2 indicators in place for a **Developing** status. However this was prior to the elimination of funding for sobriety checkpoints in the 2017 legislative session.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Reinstate funding for sobriety checkpoints
- Require ignition interlock for all first-time and repeat Driving Under the Influence offenders
- Ban open containers for drivers and passengers

## Child Passengers

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators in place for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Missouri law to keep children rear facing at least through age 2
- Missouri law to keep children in proper child restraint or booster through at least age 8
- Address children left in hot cars through legislation

## Distracted Driving

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Total ban on cell phones (hand-held and hands-free) for teens and novice drivers
- Texting ban for all drivers

## Seat Belts

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Primary seat belt law; all occupants and seating positions covered by seat belt law
- Require seat belts on school buses

## Speeding

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Automated enforcement of speeding or red light cameras
- Urban interstate speed limit of 55

## Teen Drivers

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Strengthen Graduated Driver License (GDL) law by
  - Young passenger restriction for 12 months
  - Longer nighttime restriction hours
  - Increase number of supervised driving minimum hours

## Vulnerable Roadway Users

The report noted that Missouri had 1 or zero indicators for an **Off Track** status.

### Suggested Measures for Improvement

- Keep the law for motorcycle helmets required for all riders
- Require bicycle helmets for all young riders
- Require stop for pedestrians in uncontrolled walkway or roadway

## Priority areas the Governor could champion to increase Missouri's ranking

- Pass a primary safety belt law for all seating positions. It has been estimated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that passing this law could save an additional 43 lives per year, reduce serious injury crashes by 536 per year and save Missouri \$118 million in costs. ([Attachment 3](#))
- Be a spokesperson for MoDOT's Buckle Up Phone Down challenge to help raise awareness.
- Prohibit the use of hand held electronic wireless communication devices while driving. Cognitive impairment can cause a driver to miss up to 50% of what is happening around their vehicle. Missouri, Montana and Arizona are the only three states without an all driver texting ban. ([Attachment 4](#))
- Strengthen our Graduated Driver License law. Fatalities are a leading cause of death for teens. Youth in MO account for nearly 12 percent of traffic fatalities but only comprise approximately 8 percent of Missouri licensed drivers. Current teen driver safety belt usage is only 70 percent.
- Strengthen our child passenger safety law to require children to remain rear facing through age two. Anywhere from 72 to 84 percent of child restraints show critical misuses.
- Reinstatement of federal funding to allow sobriety checkpoints. National research has shown when checkpoints are routinely conducted in a community, they can result in a 20 percent reduction in alcohol related fatal crashes.