



Target Zero Commission: Working Group Meeting

May 28, 2025



Welcome



Mike Rizol

Director

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Division of Highway Traffic Safety





TARGET ZERO GOAL

To eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on New Jersey roads by 2040.



Participating in Today's Meeting

- ◆ Introduce yourself in chat
- ◆ During the presentation, please add any questions in the chat
- ◆ You will have an opportunity to participate in a breakout group discussion after the presentation
- ◆ **Materials will be shared on the working group website**



Target Zero Working Group Website

- ◆ Working Group information
- ◆ Target Zero Action Plan Input Form
- ◆ Materials from April meeting
- ◆ Register for future meetings

go.rutgers.edu/TZWorkingGroup





Role of the Working Group

- ◆ Collect and review existing programs
- ◆ Collect, generate, and prioritize recommendations for new programs or changes to programs to help eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on NJ roads
- ◆ Apply the principles of the Safe System Approach to the state's agencies and their programs
- ◆ Guide and inform the development of the Target Zero Action Plan
- ◆ Report to the Target Zero Commission
- ◆ ***Actively contribute to our working group meetings.***
- ◆ ***NEW: Support development of draft actions.***



NEW: Support development of draft actions

VTC may ask working group members to support the development and refinement of draft actions

- ◆ Vet and provide comments on draft actions
- ◆ Assist with drafting narrative, details
- ◆ Solicit additional feedback from your networks
- ◆ Apply RICE method
 - ◇ Reach, Impact, Confidence, Effort

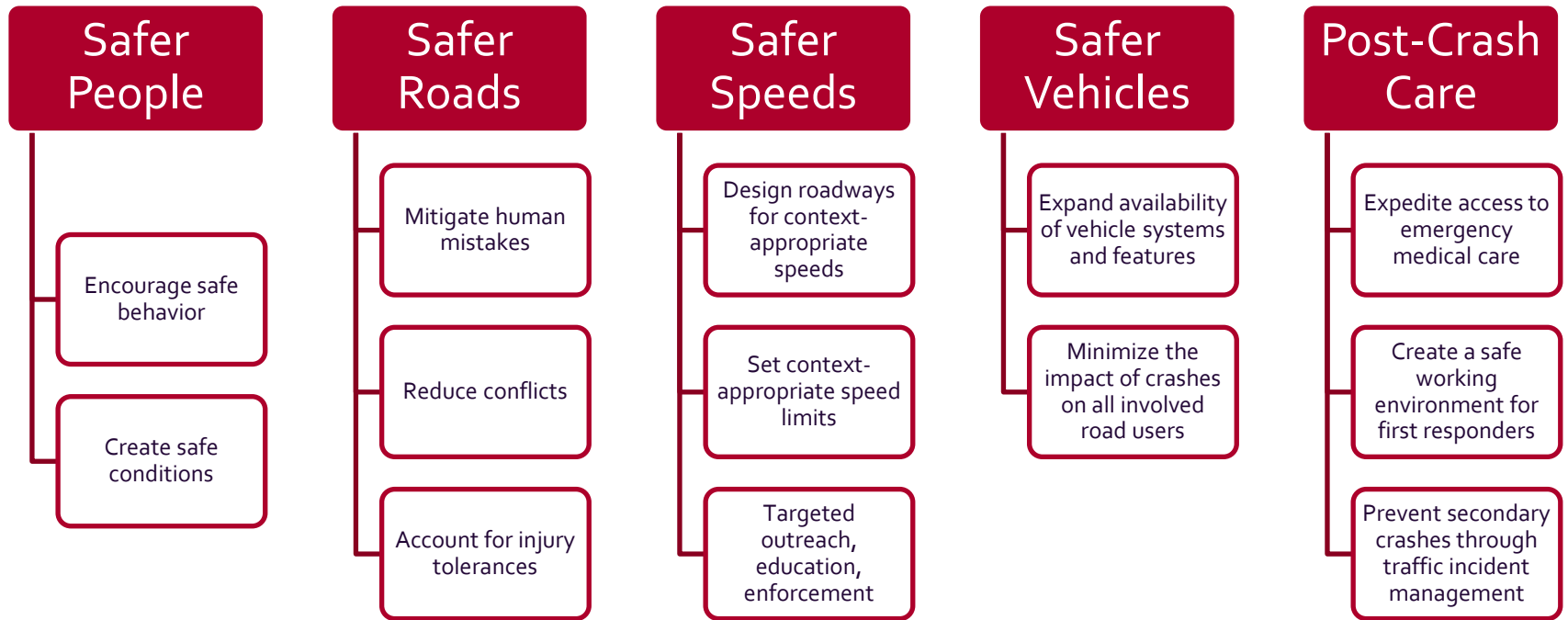


SAFER PEOPLE

Safe System Approach 101

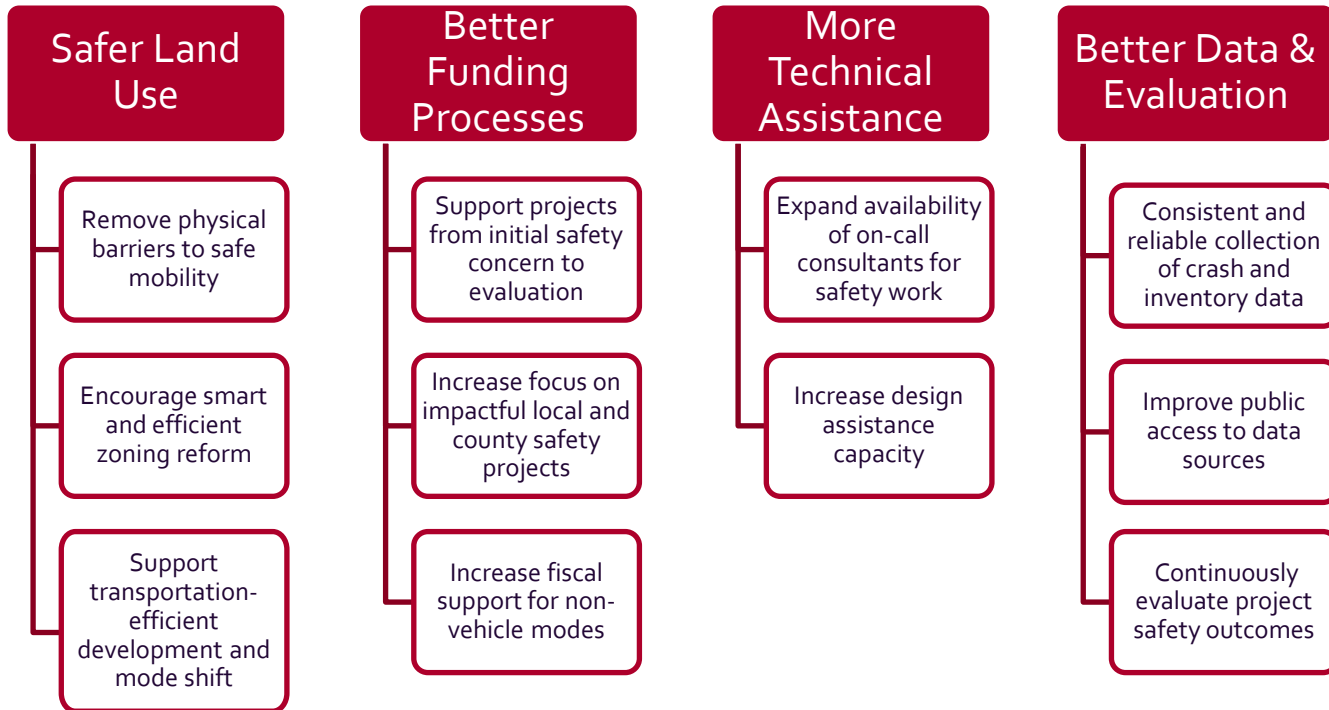


The Safe System Approach





Potential Additional Priorities





SAFER PEOPLE

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

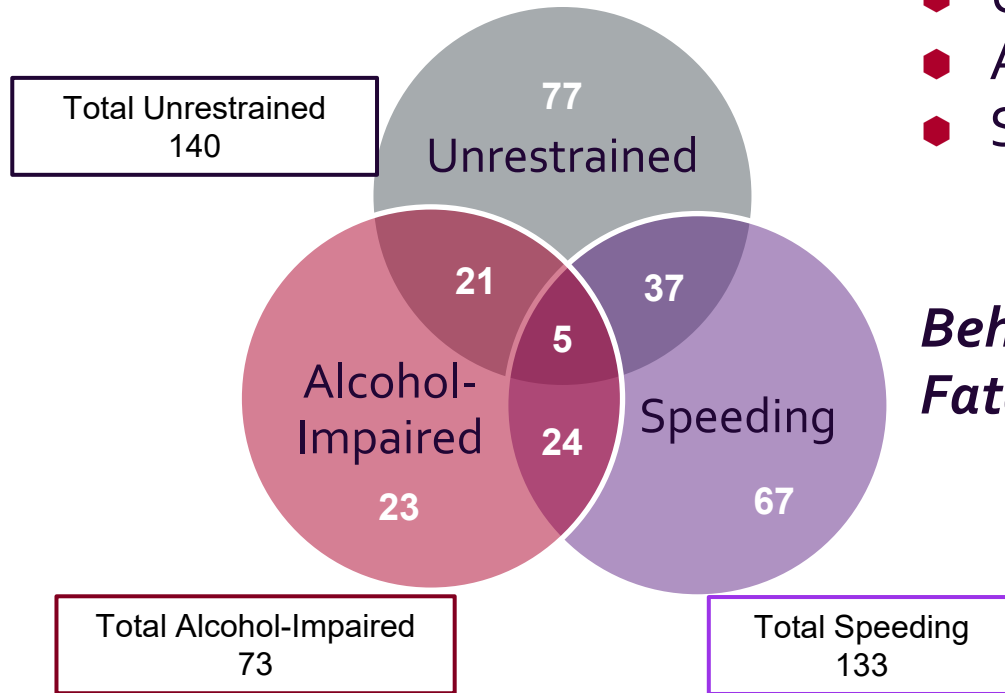


Safer People, potential examples

- Encourage safe behavior
 - Education
 - Enforcement
 - Encouragement
 - Awareness
- Create safe conditions
 - Signage, signals, striping
 - People-centered design
 - Other



Behavioral Safety Factors

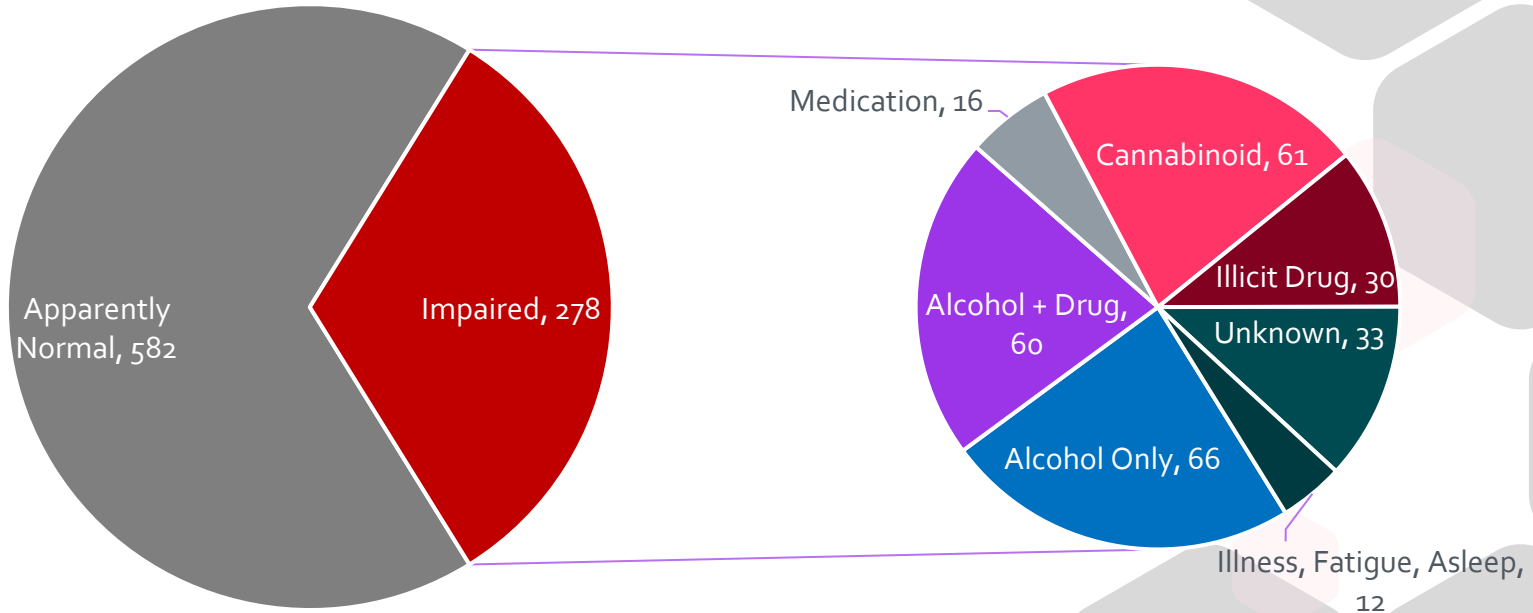


- Unrestrained occupants
- Alcohol-impaired drivers
- Speeding

***Behaviors Attributed to
Fatal Crashes in New Jersey
Data from Numetric (2023)***



Impairment (2023)



from NJ Fatal Crash Report (NJ State Police, 2023)



Other Behaviors in NJ (2023)

●	Distracted Driver	197
●	Moving Violations	291
○	Failure to Obey	54
○	Failure to Yield	22
○	Reckless Driving	159

Note: Many types of behaviors reported in the NJ Fatal Crash Report are considerably underreported. Figures included here are illustrative and not intended to be authoritative.



Action Plan Input Form



- ◆ My recommendation for an actionable item is...
- ◆ Are there good examples of implementation of this action?
- ◆ Where has implementation of this action been successful?
- ◆ How was implementation of this action successful?
- ◆ Please provide resources (links, reports, funding, etc.) that support this action, if available.
- ◆ What agencies, organizations, and partners should be involved in implementing this action? *This may include local, county, regional, state, private, non-profit, etc.*
- ◆ What other important considerations for the implementation of the action would you like to share, if any?



Draft Actions

Potential examples for Safer People



Potential Example: Driver License Renewal Refresher Test

Key Objective: Safer People

Other Objectives:

Description: Require people to take a shortened test at license renewal. Focus on new laws and known knowledge gaps (e.g., how to drive around bikes and pedestrians).

Action Type: Legislative

Lead Agency: Motor Vehicle Commission

Timeframe: Medium

Support Agency(ies): Div. Highway Traffic Safety; Dept. of Community Affairs; Dept. of Human Services

Priority & Cost: TBD

Other Partner(s): NJ AHPERD, Dept. of Education

Performance Metric/Evaluation: Pass rate on retests.

Notes: New Jersey driver's license needs to be renewed every four years. New Hampshire and Illinois require testing for older adults, and other states (e.g., Ohio, Arizona, Colorado) require a vision exam and in person renewal. Other states driver license renewals have special provisions for older drivers. There is no state yet which requires retesting at renewal.

Support agencies can help develop educational materials and outreach to inform community members about the change in process.



Potential Example: Address Illegal Parking with Design

Key Objective: Safer People

Other Objectives: Safer Roads

Description: Increase the statewide adoption of physical daylighting designs near intersections and at marked crosswalks.

Action Type: Design

Lead Agency: Dept. of Transportation

Timeframe: Medium | Long

Support Agency(ies): Dept. of Community Affairs

Priority & Cost: TBD

Other Partner(s): County/local planners, engineers

Performance Metric/Evaluation: Change in crash rate, crash severity, stop rate for pedestrians in crosswalks at implementation locations

Notes: Implementation of physical daylighting involves the application of temporary or permanent curb extensions or other infrastructure that inhibit motorists from parking within 25 feet of a crosswalk or 50 feet of a stop sign, which is illegal by NJ statute. By redesigning intersections to inhibit illegal parking, there is less opportunity for parked cars to create an unsafe condition for other road users.



Potential Example: Addressing Impaired Driving

Key Objective: Safer People

Other Objectives:

Description: Need for educating the public about the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence of cannabis and other drugs; specialized training for officers on recognizing impaired driving. Expand research on non-alcohol-based impairment

Action Type: Education

Lead Agency: Dept. of Health

Timeframe: Long

Support Agency(ies): State Police, Div. Highway Traffic Safety

Priority & Cost: TBD

Other Partner(s): Cannabis Regulatory Commission, NJ
AHPERD, Dept. of Education

Performance Metric/Evaluation: Update to and expansion of cannabis resource toolkits surrounding impaired driving on the [Cannabis Regulatory Commission website](#).

Notes: Issues include Lack of roadside testing, subjectivity of field sobriety tests, establishing probable cause. NJ Crash Records Portal may be of limited utility for cannabis-related public health surveillance in the short term but could become a rich source of cannabis-related motor vehicle crash data in the future.



BREAKOUT GROUPS



Breakout Group Discussion

Breakout group member introductions

- FHWA lists the following three behaviors as the most frequent and persistent behavioral safety factors in fatal crashes: Unrestrained occupants, impaired drivers, and speeding.
 1. What action items should the plan consider to address unrestrained, impaired, and speeding drivers?
 2. Are there other hazardous behaviors we should address in New Jersey?
 3. How could these hazardous behaviors be mitigated?
- Are there other effective strategies we should consider?



REPORT BACK



Six Monthly Meetings

Meeting 1 (Apr):
Kickoff and survey of
current initiatives and
strategies



Meetings 2–4 (May–July):
Focus on 1–2 topics from
the Safe System
Approach per meeting

Meetings 5–6 (Aug–Sept):
Additional topics, draft
Action Plan prioritization
and review



Contact us!

Any questions?

NJ Target Zero Email:

- ◆ targetzero@rutgers.edu