

Safety is a vital component to our lives and to how we get around Marion County, whether by car, truck, motorcycle, bus, scooter, wheelchair, foot or bike.

The benefits realized from greater safety on our transportation network translate to safer roadways and intersections, reduced fatalities and injuries, improved mobility and less stressful travel experiences.

In Marion County in 2022, there were a total of...¹

9,261 Crashes **105** Fatalities **473** Serious Injuries

What Can We Do To Improve Safety?

1. Don't Drive Distracted



In 2020, there were 557 distracted driver crashes in Marion County. During that same year, there were over 48,000 across the state of Florida.⁵

2. Don't Drive Drowsy



Driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is the equivalent of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% - the U.S. legal limit ⁶

3. Obey All Speed Limits



In 2020 speeding was a contributing factor in 29% of all traffic fatalities in the U.S. ⁷

4. Wear Your Seat Belt



Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45% ⁸

5. Cross At Crosswalks



On average, a pedestrian was killed every 81 minutes in traffic crashes in 2020 in the U.S.
Crossing at crosswalks reduces the likelihood of being involved in a crash ⁹

Human behavior (error or poor choice) accounts for 94% of all traffic crashes⁴

4 E's of Highway Safety

Engineering:

rumble strips, speed feedback signs and reflective signs

Education:

citizen advocacy groups, educators, CarFit program, WalkWise Initiative;

Emergency Response:

first responders, paramedics, fire, and rescue

Enforcement:

traffic citations, speed limit signs

Crash and Injury Statistics³ (Marion County, 2022)

Hit and Run

Total Crashes: **1,559**
Total Injuries: **475**
Total Fatalities: **8**

Pedestrian

Total Crashes: **153**
Total Fatalities: **16**

Motorcycle

Total Crashes: **227**
Total Fatalities: **23**

Bicycle

Total Crashes: **97**
Total Fatalities: **4**

The Ocala Marion TPO and its partners work to improve safety throughout Marion County. The TPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes specific investment priorities by using a project-prioritization and project-selection process that is based on the anticipated effect of reducing both fatal and serious injury crashes. The TPO also collects and analyzes crash data and trends.

Other local initiatives aimed at improving safety include the Marion County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST); Safety Through Engineering; Education and Responsibility (STEER); the Youth Bike Rodeo; CarFit; Walk Your Kids to School Day; and the Safe Routes to School program.

Commitment to Zero



Commitment to Zero: An Action Plan for Safer Streets in Ocala Marion is a planning project led by the TPO to improve transportation safety throughout Marion County. The primary goal is to implement a plan focused on eliminating serious injuries and fatalities on the roadways of Ocala/Marion County and is based on four foundational cornerstones:

- Education and Awareness
- Public and Partner Engagement
- Safety Analysis
- Action Planning

Commitment to Zero Webpage

<https://ocalamariontpo.org/safety-plan>

Target Zero Statewide Initiative

Target Zero is a statewide initiative to reduce the number of transportation-related serious injuries and deaths across Florida to ZERO.

Target Zero builds on Vision Zero by focusing on influencing dangerous driver behaviors before then lead to serious and fatal crashes. Target Zero is accomplished through extensive education and awareness, messaging and community collaboration.

<https://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/target-zero>

Sources:

- 1- University of Florida, GeoPlan Center, Signal 4 Analytics
- 2-A traffic fatality is defined as the death of a person as a direct result of a traffic crash within thirty days of the incident. An injury is defined as an incident requiring a person to be transported away from the scene for immediate medical attention. Property Damage is defined as greater than or equal to \$25,000 of damage for all property involved.
- 3-Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Crash Dashboard (Marion County, 2022)
- 4-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) - Traffic Safety Facts
- 5-Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Distracted Driving Crash Dashboard (Marion County, 2020)
- 6 -National Safety Council, Drivers are Falling Asleep Behind the Wheel
- 7-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Speeding
- 8-Centers for Disease Control - Policy Impact: Seat Belts
- 9-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Pedestrian Safety

