Ocala Marion TPO
Transportation Safety

TPO — OCALA MARION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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 2019, there were a total of...[1]

9,562 Crashes **88** Fatalities **433** Serious Injuries

Of the **9,562** crashes, **242** resulted in property damage[2] of over **$25,000** [1]

What Can We Do To Improve Safety?

1. Don't Drive Distracted

In 2019, there were 791 distracted driver crashes in Marion County. During that same year, there were over 56,000 across Florida. That is equivalent to nearly one distracted driving crash for every Ocala resident [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]

Human behavior (error or poor choice) accounts for **94%** of all traffic crashes[4]

3. Obey All Speed Limits

SPEED LIMIT 30

In 2017, speeding was a contributing factor in 26% 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 88 minutes in traffic crashes in 2017 in the U.S.

Crossing at crosswalks reduces the likelihood of being involved in a crash [9]

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 Statistics[3] (Marion County, 2019)

Hit and Run
Total Crashes: **1,419**
Total Injuries: **426**
Total Fatalities: **4**

Pedestrian
Total Crashes: **159**
Total Fatalities: **20**

Motorcycle
Total Crashes: **198**
Total Fatalities: **10**

Bicycle
Total Crashes: **76**
Total Fatalities: **1**

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, which is published in its Traffic Crash Report (TCR).

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.

Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a goal of obtaining zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries for all users. Each year, more than 35,000 people are killed in vehicle-related crashes.

The significant loss of life extends beyond personal loss to deep community impacts, including: personal economic costs and emotional trauma to those suffering; and significant taxpayer spending on emergency response and long-term healthcare costs.[10]

Towards Zero Deaths in Florida (TZD)

TZD is a data-driven strategy that focuses on improving highway safety by changing the driving culture, with the ultimate goal of no deaths on the nation's highways.

The TZD initiative relies on data from crashes and police stops, together with the 4 E's of Highway Safety, to determine priority areas and make changes to policies and programs[11]

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, 2019)
4 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) - Traffic Safety Facts
5- Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Distracted Driving Crash Dashboard (Marion County, 2019)
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
10 - Vision Zero Network - What is Vision Zero?
11- GCN - Crash Analytics: How Data Can Help Eliminate Highway Deaths