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.

**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.

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.

3. **Obey All Speed Limits**
   - In 2020 speeding was a contributing factor in 29% of all traffic fatalities in the U.S.

4. **Wear Your Seat Belt**
   - Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45%.

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.

6. **4 E’s of Highway Safety**
   - Engineering: rumble strips, speed feedback signs and reflective signs
   - Education: citizen advocacy groups, educators, CarFit program, WalkWise Initiative
   - Enforcement: traffic citations, speed limit signs
   - Emergency Response: first responders, paramedics, fire, and rescue

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

**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

Sources:
1. University of Florida, GeoPlan Center, Signal 4 Analytics
2. A traffic fatality is defined as 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, 2020)
5. Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Distected Driving Crash Dashboard (Marion County, 2020)
6. National Safety Council, Drivers are Falling Asleep Behind the Wheel
8. Centers for Disease Control - Policy Impact: Seat Belts

**Crash and Injury Statistics**

- **Hit and Run**
  - Total Crashes: 1,559
  - Total Injuries: 475
  - Total Fatalities: 8
- **Pedestrian**
  - Total Crashes: 153
  - Total Injuries: 4
  - Total Fatalities: 16
- **Motorcycle**
  - Total Crashes: 227
  - Total Injuries: 23
  - Total Fatalities: 4
- **Bicycle**
  - Total Crashes: 97
  - Total Injuries: 4
  - Total Fatalities: 4

**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 they 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

**Commitment to Zero Webpage**
https://ocalamariontpo.org/safety-plan