



A Safe System Approach for Improving Traffic Safety in Multnomah County

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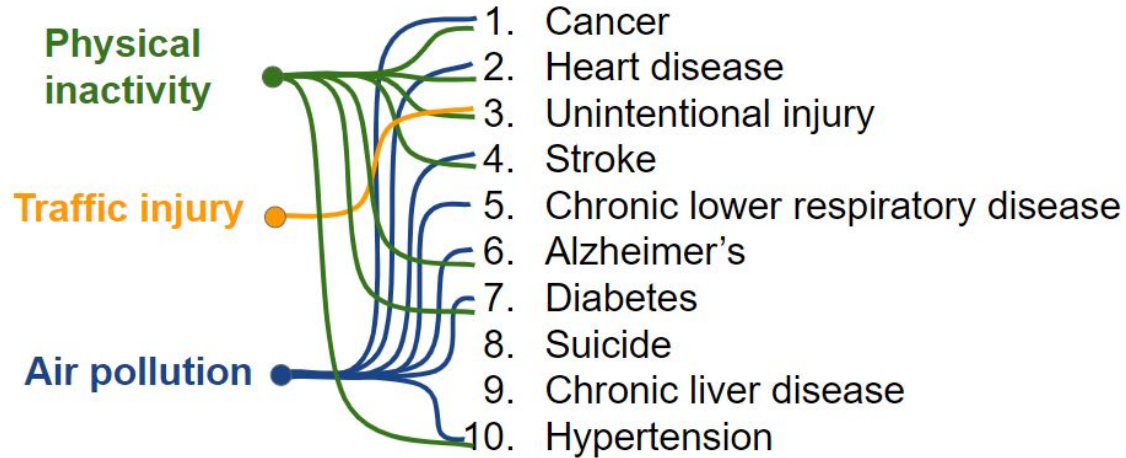
Health in all transportation policies



Why does Public Health care about transportation?

Multnomah County 10 Leading Causes of Death in Connection to Built Environment

Leading causes of death in Multnomah County 2014-2018



Principles of the Safe System Approach



Source: Vision Zero Network, 2021



Safe System Framework

Reduce Human Error

- Separate users in space
- Separate users in time
- Improve awareness, attentiveness, and performance

Accommodate Vulnerability to Injury

- Reduce speeds
- Reduce impact forces



Traffic Fatalities Report



Released in August 2023

Reviewed Medical Examiner records for 170 deaths

Speed

- Speed was a factor in ~100% of fatalities, “excess speed” was a factor in 42%

Houselessness

- 24% of decedents
- Over-represented among bike and ped deaths

Intoxicants

- 84% of decedents tested positive for at least one substance



Recommendations

1. **Change the system** by adopting a safe speed policy and making investments in proven traffic-calming street designs.
2. **Reduce harm** while we advance long term system change by expanding automated enforcement, reforming fines & fees, and exploring unarmed traffic enforcement.



Safe Speeds

1. **Short Term:** Increase the use of automated speed enforcement
2. **Long Term:** Establish a county-wide policy goal of a 30 mph maximum on urban streets, supported by investments in proven traffic calming improvements



Safe Vehicles

1. **Short Term:** Advocate for state-level policies adopting intelligent speed technology systems and alcohol detection systems in new vehicles
2. **Long Term:** Advocate for national-level pedestrian safety standards for vehicles



Safe Road Users

1. **Short Term:** Identify permanent funding for County Safe Routes To School and other safety programs
2. **Long Term:** Continue investments in stable housing, harm prevention, and behavioral health



Safe Roads

1. **Short Term:** Work with local partners to develop a Safety Action Plan for East County to evaluate and collaboratively prioritize effective safety strategies across the cities
2. **Short Term:** Advocate for grants and other revenue sources that can be used for capital projects to fill gaps and improve the safety of pedestrian and bike facilities on our arterials and implement proven safety countermeasures
3. **Long Term:** Update the County's Design and Construction Manual to integrate a Safe Systems approach and best practices in safety countermeasures
4. **Long Term:** Leverage roles in EMCTC, JPACT, and ODOT Region 1 ACT to prioritize evidence-based roadway design treatments that right-size streets, reduce speeds, and maximize separation of modes on urban arterials



Optimize Emergency Medical Services

1. **Short Term:** Complete a scan of best practices for EMS response times to crash sites and an assessment of needs
2. **Long Term:** Use planned data exchange to link EMS response activities and hospital outcomes



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