Santa Barbara County Region Transportation Safety Factsheet

This factsheet was prepared by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to summarize transportation safety within the Santa Barbara County region.
**Transportation**

The purpose of this factsheet is to display the region’s safety statistics for motorized and non-motorized traffic on public roads, including state highways which are governed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Making the streets safer for all users is a top priority of federal, state, regional, and local governments. Federal programs provide funding for transportation projects intended to improve safety across the nation. For more details on the federal programs refer to the glossary on page 4 of this factsheet.

**Summary**

Beginning with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and continued forward with the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the federal government has legislated performance-based planning. Performance-based planning is a means of selecting projects that seek to improve the transportation system’s performance, measured by; safety, pavement condition, traffic congestion, and bridge condition. Caltrans implements performance-based planning in California by setting and working towards targets for each performance measure. Each of the state’s 18 MPOs has the option of supporting the statewide targets or setting their own. SBCAG supports the statewide targets.

**SAFETY AT A GLANCE**

From 2013 - 2017, Santa Barbara county experienced an average of:

- **5,767** motor vehicle collisions each year
- **16** crashes on its roadways each day

While pedestrians and bicyclists combined for just **7%** of all vehicle collisions they experienced a much higher proportion of injuries and fatalities.

- **21%** of all fatalities and **26%** of all serious injuries involve people walking or bicycling.

**LEADING TO AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF**

- **34** Fatalities
- **160** Serious Injuries
- **2,655** Injuries

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**MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS INVOLVED WITH**

- **17%** Fixed Object
- **56%** Other Vehicle
- **7%** Bicyclist or Pedestrian
- **12%** Other

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**5 YEAR TREND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Collisions</th>
<th>Serious Injuries</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,474</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,929</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,236</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,886</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) accessed May 2019
**MAP-21 Act** - The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into effect by president Obama in 2012. Map-21 provided over $105 billion for transportation programs in fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The legislature also established the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), which provides funding to support the condition and performance of the National Highway System (NHS). These performance measures include safety, road pavement condition, traffic congestion, and bridge condition.

**FAST Act** - Following the culmination of MAP-21, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was enacted to continue providing transportation funding. The FAST Act provides $305 billion in transportation funding for 2016-2020. The NHPP remains under the FAST Act, allowing a continuation of funding for the aforementioned performance measures. The federal government sets targets for each performance measure, and each state sets their own targets accordingly.

**Caltrans** - The California Department of Transportation, or Caltrans, is tasked with implementing the National Highway Performance Program at the state level. Drawing from analyses and a variety of Caltrans’ plans and studies, Caltrans sets statewide targets for each of the performance metrics.

**SBCAG** - SBCAG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Santa Barbara County region. Following the setting of statewide performance targets by Caltrans, each MPO is given the opportunity to support the statewide target by planning and programming supportive projects, or to set its own safety performance target. SBCAG has elected to support statewide performance targets.