



Five County Association of Governments

Local leaders adopt new goal for reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Washington County

Commitment to 5 percent annual decrease in severe injuries approved for safety action plan; community input survey launched.

St. George (October 23, 2023) - The Washington County Commission approved a resolution at the Tuesday, Oct. 17, meeting supporting a commitment to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Washington County by 5 percent yearly. The Council of Governments, which includes elected officials from each municipality in the county, unanimously approved the goal in September.

The local leadership commitment was a crucial step in creating a Safety Action Plan under the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program. The Five Counties Association of Government (FCAOG) received a federal grant through SS4A for Washington County. The FCAOG is administering the grant, overseeing the creation of the SS4A action plan, and coordinating the associated safety committee with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in the county.

Severe crashes, including fatalities and serious injuries, make up a small percentage of total crashes, but they have increased by 68 percent in Washington County since 2019. The increase in fatal and serious crashes in the county has been consistent with recent national trends.

Year	Number of Severe Injuries				Percent of Severe Injuries		
	Pedestrian	Bicyclist	Vehicle Driver or Passenger	Total	Pedestrian	Bicyclist	Vehicle Driver or Passenger
2013	3	1	66	70	4%	1%	94%
2014	5	7	66	78	6%	9%	85%
2015	6	4	77	87	7%	5%	89%
2016	5	1	79	85	6%	1%	93%
2017	10	3	90	103	10%	3%	87%
2018	12	3	51	66	18%	5%	77%
2019	7	3	77	87	8%	3%	89%
2020	8	4	99	111	7%	4%	89%
2021	15	4	113	132	11%	3%	86%
2022	14	8	124	146	10%	5%	85%

Creation of the safety action plan includes analyzing existing conditions and historical trends of crashes over the last 10 years, engaging with community members about transportation safety concerns, developing safety strategies, and prioritizing the solutions to address the greatest needs in the county. A draft plan is expected to be released in early February for review and the final version is expected to be completed in early June. The completed plan can be used to apply for additional federal grants to implement the identified strategies or for other transportation safety-related funding opportunities.

An online community survey is available for individuals to share their concerns and experiences with the transportation system in the county. This input will help shape the recommended solutions can be completed through Nov. 30. It is available on the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO) website at <https://dixie-mpo.com/safe-streets-4-all/> along with more information.

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