

Transportation

APRIL 15, 2009

Overall, traffic fatalities and serious injuries are decreasing statewide. According to traffic safety agencies, traffic fatality rates in 2008 declined to their lowest ever for highways, state routes, and interstates and local county, city, and other roads (0- 0.76 and 1.17 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled respectively.

The focus of numerous enforcement, education, and engineering programs and projects has been on reducing traffic fatalities that involve impairment, speed and/or no seatbelt use, all of which account for 77% of all traffic deaths. Washington State Patrol (WSP) implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of fatalities and serious injury crashes to identify high crash locations to enhance their decision-making efforts.

The transportation performance report also focused on over 90 minute incident clearings and licensing office closures. State transportation and traffic safety agencies including the departments of Transportation (WSDOT), State Patrol, Traffic Safety Commission and Department of Licensing (DOL) reported that:

- WSP and WSDOT achieved a January – March 2009 average incident clearing time of 153 minutes to clear 86 major incidents, which is below the 155-minute average target. The proportion of incidents involving commercial motor vehicles (CMV) has dropped since the 3rd quarter of 2008. Between January and March 2009, CMVs were involved in 28% of over-90-minute incidents. These findings are significant because commercial motor vehicles typically accounted for an average of 43% of all over-90-minute incidents in a quarter for nine key state routes between 2006 and 2008.
- The first major office closure resulting from the Department of Licensing office consolidation initiative was the Auburn office, which closed on March 27, 2009. Increased transaction volumes for each of the three nearby offices (Kent 39%, Federal Way 22%, and Puyallup 19%), equal to 91% of Auburn's previous transaction volume, suggesting most of Auburn's previous customers chose to visit these three nearby offices. However, decreased customer wait times at Kent and Puyallup, and steady wait times at Federal Way, suggest that customer service did not suffer, and planning and staffing with greeters was effective.

For more information, visit the web-based tool used to manage agency performance:

<http://performance.wa.gov/Transportation/Transportation71509/Pages/Default.aspx>