



TOWARD ZERO DEATHS
Because your life counts

Welcome

**Southeastern Minnesota
Toward Zero Deaths
(TZD Workshop)**
Thursday, May 19, 2011

Focus Areas

- Speed
- Lack of Seat Belt Use
- Run off Road
(now called distracted driving)

Post-Bulletin Company LLC
 Randy Chapman, Publisher, 285-7602
 Greg Sellnow, Editorial Page Editor, 285-7703
 Eric Atherton, Editorial Page Writer, 285-7709

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Member of the Small Newspaper Group, Kankakee, Ill.
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Roads get safer, but 400 deaths is still too many

The numbers aren't official just yet, but the Minnesota Department of Public Safety says that 2009 is likely to go down as the least deadly year on Minnesota's roads since 1944. Just over 400 drivers, passengers, motorcyclists and pedestrians were killed last year.

OUR VIEW

Several factors doubtless played a role in making our highways safer. Our sluggish economy means people are driving fewer miles. Each year, new safety features are added to automobiles, and law enforcement agencies across the state are making DWI enforcement a higher priority.

But perhaps the single most important trend in highway safety

is this one: Today, 90 percent of Minnesotans wear their seat belts.

For years they've been legally obligated to do so, but police officers couldn't pull drivers over simply because they failed to wear a seat belt. If a driver didn't speed or commit some other traffic violation, they could ignore the seat belt law with impunity.

That all changed in June, when the primary seat belt law took effect. This bill, championed by DFL Rep. Kim Nottas of Rochester, appears to be having the desired effect.

We're eager to see what happens after a full year of enforcement. The state's goal is fewer than 400 deaths by 2010, and it certainly seems attainable.

No special session

We're not sure what Gov. Pawlenty would hope to accomplish by calling a special session of the Minnesota Legislature just weeks before the regular session begins.

Obviously, this session would be for the purpose of addressing the ongoing deferral of state payments to Minnesota's schools, which were among the cuts Pawlenty made last year when he took it upon himself to balance the state budget. For now, districts across Minnesota are being asked to do without \$1.8 billion, and at the moment there's no guarantee when the state will be able to make good on its promise to distribute those funds.

We'll be blunt: If the governor wants to spend taxpayer dollars by calling the legislature to St. Paul

this month, it better be with the purpose of delivering some serious relief to our cash-strapped schools. But if his only goal is to gain legislative approval for continuing to delay payments to our schools — approval that he would be highly unlikely to get — then we're more than happy to make him wait until Feb. 4.

A mere pittance

Speaking of cash-strapped schools, members of the Red Wing School Board on Monday voted to slash their own pay by 20 percent. Their salaries haven't changed since 1994, and now board chairwoman Heidi Jones, will receive \$3,300 per year. Her colleagues will get \$636.

When you consider the time, effort, responsibility and

headaches that are involved in being a school board member, that's barely a pittance. These seven people are on the verge of becoming volunteers. By way of comparison, Rochester School Board members earn \$7,200 per year, and we don't believe that's excessive.

We admire the Red Wing board's dedication and the message its members are sending by cutting their own pay, but this isn't a good trend. People don't run for school board because they expect to get rich, but when the stipends get this low, some qualified candidates simply won't be able to afford to throw their hats into the ring.

When the pay for a three-hour public meeting is only slightly more than what would be required to hire a baby sitter for the evening, we're in trouble.

Minnesotans incorrectly view rural roads as safe, study shows

By **TOM ROBERSON**,
Minnesota Public Radio News

And **SUZANNE ROOK**,
srook@northfieldnews.com

A new University of Minnesota study shows that drivers are more prone to risk-taking on rural highways, even though that's where most fatal accidents occur.

The perception that rural roadways are safer is common. But Minnesotans are much more likely to die on rural highways than on roads in urban areas where most people live, according to a traffic safety survey done by the university's Center for Ex-

"They feel that there isn't the same level of risk as there is in urban areas, but the opposite is true. There are significant safety hazards, and their behaviors — such as not wearing a seat belt, or using a cell phone, eating while driving — all of these things are a higher risk in rural areas."

► **Lee Munnich**, Center for Excellence in Rural Safety Director

nich said the survey shows people are more relaxed and comfortable with risk-taking

agencies report a 90 percent compliance with seat belt laws, the rate is lower in rural

that isn't changing. So there does seem to be something going on in the rural community that's very different than the urban community."

Marti said the key to changing people's attitudes lies with enforcement and with public education campaigns.

"We can't get into people's cars and force them to make different decisions behind the wheel," she said. "I think that people are dangerously overconfident in their vehicles and certainly not sensitive enough to the safe driving behaviors that they really need to practice."

The U of M survey also re-

in cities+region

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SECTION B • TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010



Crash victim was a happy boy

• Joey Balistreri of Burnsville, 11, died when his family's SUV was struck by a car driven by a woman officials say had been drinking.

By COREY MITCHELL
coreymitchell@startribune.com

When Joey Balistreri ran up to Steve Ellington at the end of Sunday's baseball game, the 11-year-old extended his arms and thanked his coach for the season.

But Ellington wasn't having it. He wanted to wait until a Thursday

team party at the St. Paul Saints game to get an end-of-the-year goodbye from his scrappy catcher and outfielder.

"I told him, 'We'll hug at the game,'" Ellington said.

They will never get that chance. Joey died seven hours later when his family's GMC Denali was hit by a suspected drunken driver on Hwy.

13 in Burnsville, the State Patrol said Monday. The driver crossed into oncoming traffic about 8 p.m. and plowed into the family's vehicle.

Officers found an open alcohol container and drug paraphernalia in the car of the driver, 27-year-old Leah C. Graeber of Savage, said State Patrol Lt. Eric Roenke.

Doctors at North Memorial Med-

ical Center in Robbinsdale listed Joey's father, 45-year-old Geoffrey Balistreri, in serious condition Monday afternoon. The other two passengers in the sport-utility vehicle — Joey's mother, Pamela, 38, and sister, Megan, 13 — did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The family lives in Burnsville.

As the Burnsville traveling baseball team wrapped up its season, the Balistreris, including grandpar-

Crash continues on B7 ▶

smashed

To read installments of the Smashed series, a Star Tribune investigation of the scourge of drunken driving in Minnesota, go to startribune.com/smashed.

Winona Daily News

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

One killed in crash



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRANDELL/WINONA DAILY NEWS
ABOVE: Emergency responders look over the wreckage on County Road 17 where a 57-year-old motorcyclist from Ionia, Iowa, crashed and died after colliding with an oncoming SUV Friday afternoon. **BELOW:** Officials closed County Road 17 for several hours to clear debris caused by the crash.

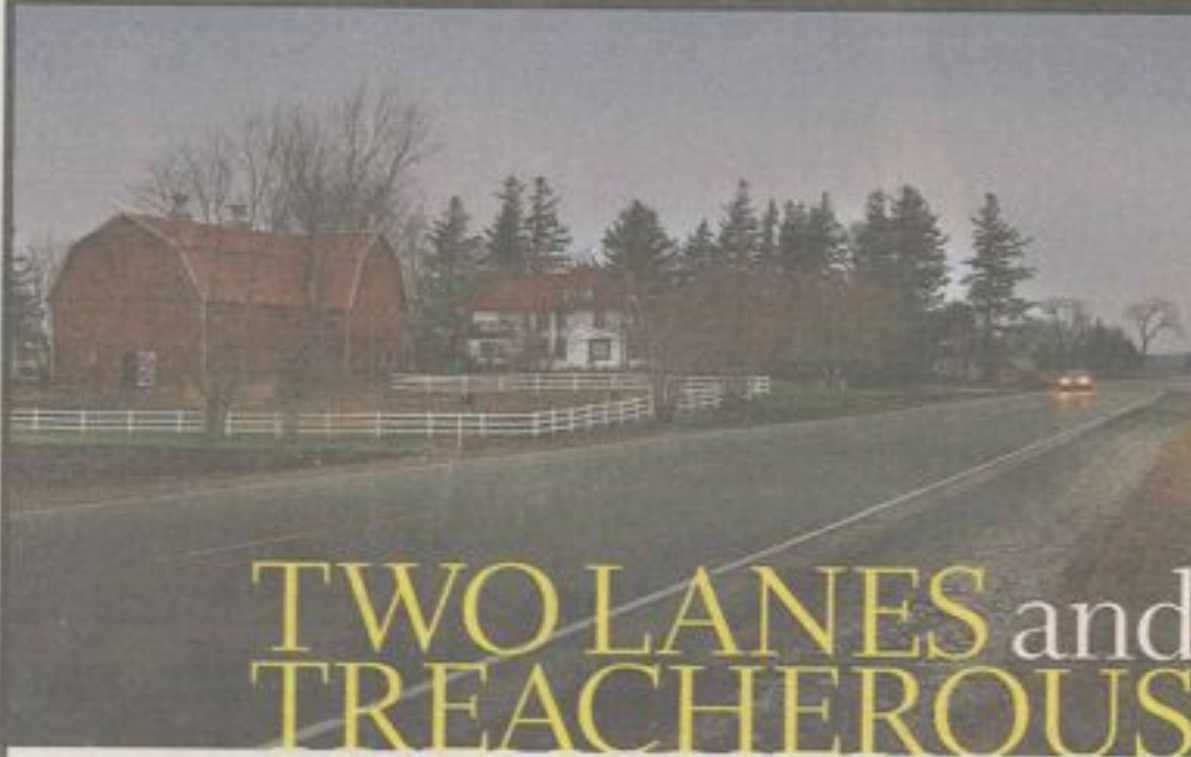
StarTribune

Tuesday



MINNEAPOLIS • ST. PAUL • "WE'RE THE PHONE COMPANY, WE DON'T CARE. WE DON'T HAVE TO." COMEDIAN LILY TOMLIN • MA

A rash of fatal crashes in April highlights the ever-present dangers of Minnesota's rural roads.



TWO LANES and TREACHEROUS

Hwy. 14, which runs from Rochester to the South Dakota border, is one of the state's deadliest roads.

JIM GEHEZ • Star Tribune file photo

OWATONNA People's Press

August 4, 2010

75 cents Newsstand

owatonna.com



Waseca teen killed on Hwy. 14

By WENDY REUER
wreuer@owatonna.com

OWATONNA — A 17-year-old boy was killed Tuesday when a piece of masonry block flew off a truck bed and struck him as he was riding in a van with another boy on Highway 14 west of Owatonna.

The name of the victim has not yet been released.

The Steele County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Patrol and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to the accident at about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. The accident occurred west of the city of Owatonna on Highway 14 by what is known as Andrew's Corner.

Steele County Sheriff Don Gudmundson said a flat bed truck pulling a trailer from North Star Stone & Masonry, Mendota Heights was eastbound on Highway 14 when a retaining wall block — which had been strapped down — bounced off



Wendy Reuer/People's Press

The Steele County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Patrol, Owatonna Fire and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to an accident at about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at Andrew's Corner on U.S. Highway 14.

the trailer and struck an eastbound Dodge Van on the passenger side. The block went through the windshield, instantly killing the boy.

"The initial investigation, it appears as though (the block)

was not completely strapped down," Gudmundson said.

The Minnesota State Patrol will be conducting an accident investigation and reconstruction.

"They will also have commercial vehicle inspectors there,"

Gudmundson said.

The driver of the van — also a young man — was uninjured. A 41-year-old Medford man was driving the truck. He was not injured.

Gudmundson said the block

was likely moving at very high speeds, considering both vehicles likely driving about 55 mph, the impact of the block may have been at least 110 mph.

The accident is one of three in about three months.

"That is our third fatality, since May. Two of them have been on Highway 14 west of Owatonna," Gudmundson said.

Gudmundson added this particular accident, seems to be unrelated to highway engineering.

"This seems to be unrelated to highway engineering. You could argue that if you had two lanes it wouldn't have happened. But I can't say it was engineering related," he said.

A new four-lane Highway 14 from Waseca to Owatonna is in the process of being constructed, and is expected to be finished in 2012. However, no construction date nor funding has been slated to upgrade the two-lane Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center.

Mission

To move southeastern Minnesota toward zero deaths on our roads using education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical & trauma services.

Southeastern Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths

Overall Regional Goal:

To reduce traffic fatalities in southeastern Minnesota from the past 3-year average (using 2004–06 data) of **67**, down to **55** fatalities by 2012.

Overall Regional Goal – Update:

In 2011, the 3-year average (2008-10) for traffic-related fatality numbers show the region's total to be **56** – only one fatality away from reaching the overall regional goal established in 2006.

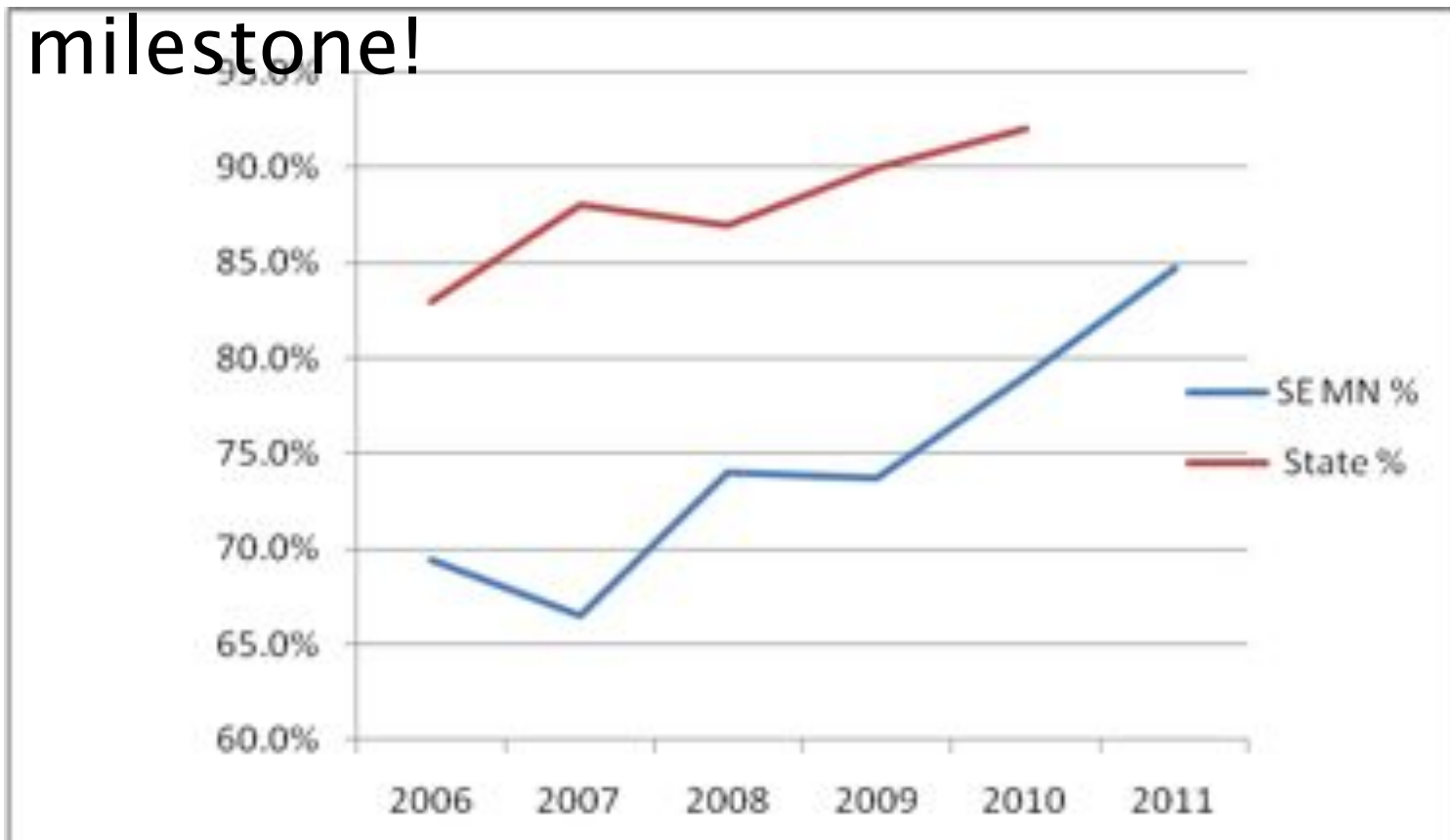
Goal 1

Increase **seat belt** usage in southeastern Minnesota, from 69 percent (2006) to the statewide average of 83 percent (2006).

As of 2010, the regional seatbelt compliance rate was 79 percent, compared to the statewide average of 92 percent.



In 2011, the regional **seat belt** compliance rate reached **85 percent** – reaching the first subcommittee milestone!



Goal 2

Decrease the number of people severely injured or killed in crashes where **Speeding** has been identified as a contributing factor, from the past

3-year average (2004–06) of 78, down to 60 people.

*As of 2009,
our 3-year
average
(2006–08) was
71.*



Goal 2: Speed Update

In 2010, the 3-year average (2007–09) was 60!



Goal 3

- Decrease the number of people severely injured or killed in **Run-off-Road** crashes from the 3-year average (2004-06) of 105 down to 85 people.



*As of 2009, the 3-year
average (2006-08)*

Goal 3: Run-Off-Road Update

In 2010, the 3-year average (2007-09) was **90**.



Southeastern Minnesota TZD Steering Committee

- Adam Newbloom, Enhanced Driving Institute
- Al Smeby, Driver Improvement Associates
- Andrea Gierok, Winona County Safe Communities
- Ashlyn Christianson, Goodhue County Safe Communities
- Brad Kollman, DPS OTS Law Enforcement Liaison
- Capt. Nancy Silkey, State Patrol

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- Curt Bolles, Olmsted County Public Works
- Don Buck, Goodhue County Driver Education
- Gary Shannon, Rochester Public Works
- Grant Kemp, Traffic Safety Volunteer
- Guy Kohlnhofer, Dodge County Public Works
- John Grindeland, Fillmore County Public Works
- Karen Schaar, Olmsted County Public Health
- Kari Etrheim, Olmsted County Public Health

Southeastern Minnesota TZD Steering Committee, con't.

- Kathy Cooper, Rice County Safe Communities
- Kristine Hernandez, Statewide & Southeast Minnesota TZD coordinator
- Laura Turek, DPS Office of Traffic Safety
- Lee Glamm, AAA
- Sheriff Lon Thiele, Steele County
- Lt. Darren Juntunen, Minnesota State Patrol
- Lt. Randy Slinger, Minnesota State Patrol

Southeastern Minnesota TZD Steering Committee, con't.

- Michael Sheehan, Olmsted County Public Works
- Nancy Klema, Mn/DOT Traffic
- Nelrae Succio, Mn/DOT District Engineer
- Sgt. Scott Tulus, Rochester Police Department
- Sgt. Mal McCarthy, Minnesota State Patrol
- Sgt. Vince Scheckel, Olmsted County Sheriff's Office
- Bruce Odenbach, Driver Improvement Associates

Autumn Wright, Mn/DOT

Year-to-Date Fatality Rate

- As of yesterday, there were 90 traffic-related fatalities statewide versus 127 at this time last year.

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LEWISTON / FATAL ACCIDENT

Trucks were going 90 mph

Staff and news service reports

ALTURA — An investigative report about a fatal accident in April says the driver was going 90 mph as she lost control and struck another vehicle before rolling the pickup and killing three teens.

UPDATE

Wisconsin County Sheriff Dave Brand says 36-year-old Shauna Marie Baboff of Lewiston tried to pass a pickup driven by a 17-year-old Lewiston-Altura classmate on Wisconsin County

Road 27 near Altura, when she lost control on the gravel shoulder. Investigators estimate Baboff was driving 90 mph.

She then overcompensated and hit the back of the other pickup before her truck rolled into the ditch. Baboff died, as did Morgan Elizabeth Zeller, 13, of Lewiston, and Katie Lee Hornberg, 14, of Altura.

Cyndey Maker, 12, of Lewiston, suffered serious injuries after being thrown from the vehicle. She continues to recover from those injuries.

The county attorney is reviewing the file. Brand made no recommendation on whether prosecutors should file charges.

The Wisconsin County Sheriff's Office has not released the full report but did comment on some of its findings.

Baboff and the other driver left Lewiston-Altura High School in separate vehicles at the same time April 23, investigators said.

The girl who survived the crash

"recalls that they were on the left side of the road — that they were going at a high rate of speed," Brand told area media. "But that's all she remembers."

The driver of the other pickup stopped at the scene after the girls crashed, Brand said. Brand didn't know for sure that a second vehicle was involved in the incident until the State Patrol released its report on the crash last week.

A version of this story appears in the *Austin Post-Bulletin*.

StarTribune

75¢ • Tuesday



MINNEAPOLIS • ST. PAUL • MINNESOTA'S TOP NEWS CHOICE • DECEMBER 8, 2009

VIKINGS AREN'T THE ONLY VIOLATORS 100 MPH HUNDREDS ARE HITTING THE MARK

By MARY LYNN SMITH
mlsmith@startribune.com

Not all extreme speeders wear Purple on Sundays.

But they're mostly young, most are men and more than 650 of them have been convicted of topping 100 miles per hour over the past five years.

When they get busted, all they can do is give a cop the "you've-got-me" look.

"When you walk up to a vehicle that you

stopped for traveling over a 100 mph, they have a guilty look on their face because they know they've been traveling that fast," said Minnesota State Patrol spokesman Capt. Matt Langer. "They know. You usually don't get arguments. You don't get them disputing the numbers. They know they've been had because it's so over the top."

Minnesota Vikings players Adrian Peterson and Bernard Berrian recently made headlines when they were busted for top-



Viking Adrian Peterson was clocked at 109 mph.

ping 100 mph on Twin Cities area roadways. And that means they both could lose their driver's licenses for six months under a 2005 state law designed to put the brakes on high-speed drivers.

Of the 679 Minnesota drivers that state officials report have been convicted under that law, only about 100 were women. Most of the serious speeders appear to be in their early 20s. Fewer teenage drivers,

Speeding continues on A11 ►

Olmsted Co. man arrested after 13th DWI

Updated: Apr 27, 2011 1:07 PM CDT

By Jess Abrahamson, Anchor/Producer/Reporter - [bio](#) | [email](#)



OLMSTED COUNTY, Minn. (KTTC) -- The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office says a familiar face was arrested for DWI Tuesday afternoon.

It was his 13th violation for drinking and driving.

Scott Brown, 53, was arrested in a traffic stop at 55th Street and 18th Avenue northwest.

He was arrested for first degree DWI, his 13th since 1980.

Because of Brown's history, it is a felony level crime.

State trooper has been hit, hit, hit



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARIJ • rtsong-taatarij@startribune.com
State trooper Brian Bamert had stopped a vehicle Saturday and was about to get out of his cruiser (shown in the State Patrol headquarters lot) when it was hit by another vehicle going about 55 miles per hour. The rate of such crashes in the past five months is double that of the same period last year.

Woman killed in rollover near Witoka

Victim was not wearing her seat belt; male driver injured

By **NOLAN ROSENKRANS**
nolan.rosenkrans@lee.net

A Winona woman was killed and a man injured when their car rolled on Wiscoy Ridge Road, Winona County Sheriff Dave Brand said.

Brand did not release the names of the victims Monday afternoon because some family members had not been notified, but said the woman was 35, and the man is 18.



FRED SCHULZE/WINONA DAILY NEWS

A 35-year-old woman died Monday in a rollover on Wiscoy Ridge Road near Witoka, Minn. The 18-year-old male driver was taken to Winona Health with injuries.



Mike Longaecher/Republican Eagle
Emergency workers tend to five victims at the scene of a two-vehicle crash Thursday at Highways 61 and 316 in Welch Township.

Five injured in crash on Highway 61

By Mike Longaecher

[mlongaecher@republican-eagle.com](mailto:m longaecher@republican-eagle.com)

A crash injured five people and closed Highway 61 between Miesville and Highway 316 for half an hour shortly before noon Thursday.

A woman and her mother sustained serious injuries after the vehicle they were in collided with a second vehicle at

Highways 61 and 316 in Welch.

Kathy Thao, 47, North St. Paul, and Pla Thao, 82, residence unknown, were listed in critical condition at Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, Kathy Thao's 1991 Toyota Previa was southbound on Highway 316 when it collided with a 2010 Mazda 6 driven by Denna Marcks, 53,

Lindstrom, Minn., who was headed west on Highway 61.

Both vehicles came to rest in the Highway 61 median, with the Thao vehicle landing on its roof.

Marcks and passengers Carol Berres, 55, Milwaukee, and Nancy Begley, 57, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, were listed in fair condition at Regions.

Begley and Berres are rela-

tives of Marcks, according to the State Patrol. Begley was the only one of the five people not wearing a seat belt, according to the State Patrol. Airbags in Marcks' vehicle deployed, troopers said. Alcohol was not believed to be a factor in the crash, which occurred at 11:38 a.m.

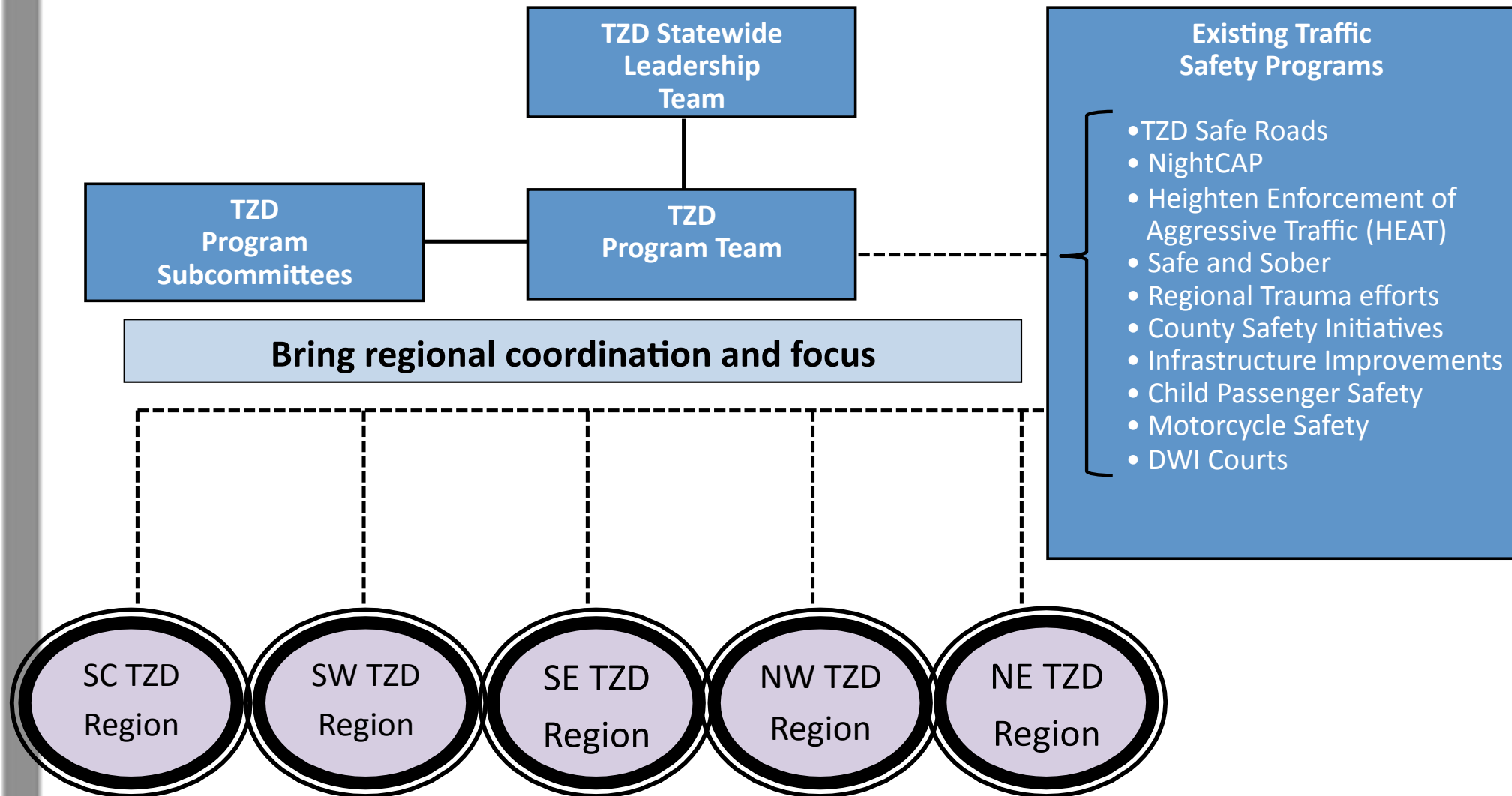
Mayo One and Lifelink helicopters airlifted the Thaos

from the scene. Red Wing and Hastings ambulance crews were among the units that responded.

A second crash occurred within minutes of the Highway 61-316 wreck. Authorities also responded to a motor vehicle crash in the median on Highway 61 at Welch Shortcut. That crash was not believed to involve serious injuries.

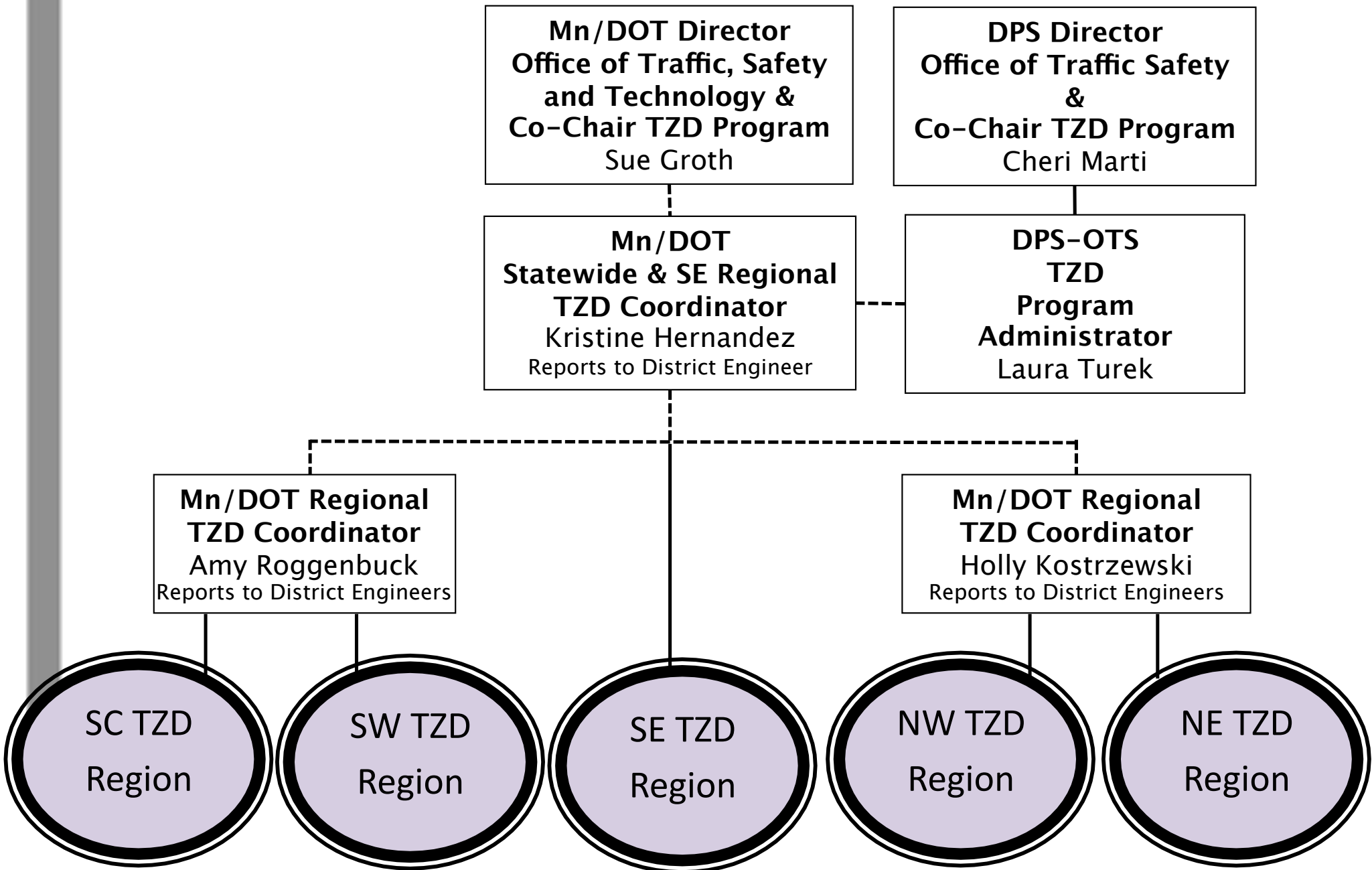
Mustang Seizure







Organizational Structure



Informal evaluation



Informal evaluation continued



“Informal” Survey Results

