Northwest Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Regional Strategic Plan

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

Goal 1 – TZD Fatality and Serious Injury Goals
To continuously decrease traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in northwest Minnesota from the past 5-year averages (2016-2020) of 20 fatalities and 64 serious injuries. Note: New injury definitions were introduced in 2016 and may have contributed to a higher reported number of serious injuries.

Objectives
A. To continuously increase regional seatbelt use rates.
   The statewide average was 93.4% in 2019 (Note: due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, no statewide observational survey was conducted in 2020). The regional seat belt rate was 86.9% in 2021. The last survey finding of 86.1%, was in 2020. As a region our long term goal is to achieve 100% usage rate. Our short-term goal is to see continuous increase in the usage rate each year.

B. To examine the characteristics of the unbelted fatalities and serious injuries.
   Calculation of seat belt use in fatal and serious crashes is possible with existing data.

C. To continuously decrease the following:

5 year averages 2016-2020 in Northwest Region - Baseline Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Annual number of</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Distraction</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal Crashes</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Injuries</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Injury Crashes</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: a crash may have more than one of the above listed or additional contributing factors
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Total Northwestern Region – Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Fatal Crashes</th>
<th>Severe Injuries</th>
<th>Severe Injury Crashes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 Totals</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region Goal 2 – TZD Partnership Goals

To continuously increase TZD awareness and partnerships across Northwest Minnesota for both the general public and traffic safety professionals

1. Establish the vision of NW TZD as a priority for all region, county, city (government agencies)
   A. Engage local government involvement in TZD steering committee and workshops
   B. Educate/promote traffic safety awareness of city/county officials
   C. Promote City/county employee education/policies that facilitate the TZD vision

   [Activities: Recruitment of city and county to attend TZD event, giving TZD presentations to boards/councils, mailings/connections to Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS)]

2. Create and strengthen partnerships in the region
   A. Engage stakeholders
   B. Develop networking relationships
   C. Recruit membership of the TZD partnership

   (Activities: EMS Conference booth/presentation, regional workshop, web, calendar, statistics, workshop, orientation)

3. Promote and implement effective traffic safety initiatives in the region
   A. Develop and distribute resource materials
   B. Provide enforcement wave support in community
   C. Promote evidence based countermeasures
   D. Collect data and statistics within region
   E. Implement best practices within region

   (Activities: web, brochure, 1-pagers, presentations, news advisories, workshop, seatbelt observational survey and omnibus survey, media messaging and media events, news releases re: activities woven into existing messages, worksite education and policy development, parent component to drivers education, sober cab development, youth enforcement and education activities)