Northwest Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths
Regional Workshop—Legacy Event Center
16458 160th Avenue NE, Thief River Falls
Thursday, April 30, 2026
8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Regional Roundup**
J.T. Anderson, District engineer, MnDOT District 2, and northwest Minnesota TZD regional co-chair; Sue Johnson, northwest Minnesota TZD regional coordinator

9:15 a.m. **SHSP Around a Crash**
Max Moreland, state traffic safety crash data engineer, MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering
See how the Strategic Highway Safety Plan plays a part in a crash. Breakdown of a specific crash, going over how SHSP focus areas are reflected through, or how this example crash points to strategies we want to be using.

9:30 a.m. **Oral Fluid and Cannabis**
Sgt. Tyler Milless, Minnesota State Patrol DECP State Coordinator, DPS Office of Traffic Safety
Updates on where Minnesota is at with Oral Fluid Roadside Testing and cannabis information.

10:00 a.m. **AI with Connected & Automated Vehicles**
Thomas Johnson-Kaiser, CAV Policy and Planning Manager
This session highlights how automated vehicle (AV) technology can be harnessed to advance the state's goal of zero traffic deaths. As Minnesota continues developing its AV policies and testing innovative technology, it's essential that these efforts are informed by those on the front lines of transportation safety. Explore how future policies can best support safe, equitable implementation of AVs—ensuring that emerging technologies serve all communities and contribute meaningfully to reducing fatalities on our roads.

10:30 a.m. **Break & Exhibits**

11:00 a.m. **Trauma & Injury Prevention: Strategies to Promote Safety**
Katelyn Kennedy, MSN, MBA, BSN, RN, Sanford Medical Center Fargo Trauma Services, RN/Injury Prevention Coordinator
Defines trauma and examines the effects of traumatic injuries on a patient's life. Analyze region-specific data and general trends of traumatic injuries. Identify the impact of injury prevention on traumatic injuries and compare patient outcomes when safety measures are implemented.

11:30 a.m. **Teen TZD Update**
Teen TZD/Key Club members: Ellie McDermott, Olivia Schuster and Michael Rowe.
Hear how the Pennington County Teens Toward Zero Deaths are promoting traffic safety and why they are incorporating mental health in their efforts.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch & Exhibits**

12:45 p.m. **Advisory Council on Traffic Safety Update**
Brian Sorenson, state traffic engineer, Office of Traffic Safety,
Minnesota Department of Transportation and ACTS chair
Introduction of the Advisory Council, its purpose, and how the Council's efforts are working Toward Zero Deaths on our roadways. Highlights of the progress made during the past year's work by the Council members and subcommittees.

1:00 p.m. **Changing Abilities as Drivers Age**
Joane Somes, RN, PHD, NRP
Aging leads to changes in our physical and cognitive abilities. These affect our driving.
This session will look at some of these changes, ways to recognize them, actions that can help mitigate those changes, and that can be taken when worried about someone else's driving.

1:30 p.m. **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment on the Road to Zero**
Julie Seitz, LADC, LGSW, Project Director, Allrise
If we are serious about Toward Zero Deaths, our strategies must address the full behavioral health picture contributing to impaired driving. SBIRT is an evidence-based framework designed to identify risky substance use early and intervene before patterns escalate into repeat DWI offenses or fatal crashes. This session moves beyond theory and focuses on implementation. Explore how SBIRT can screen for alcohol, other drugs, and emerging behavioral health indicators, while remaining practical, brief, and appropriate for traffic safety settings with real-world examples.

2:15 pm **The Power of Prediction: An Innovative Traffic Safety Tool to Help Prevent Traffic Crashes**
Capt. Adam Fulton, Minnesota State Patrol, and Katy Kressin, West Central TZD Regional Coordinator
This presentation will introduce a newly developed crash foresight tool that identifies high-risk locations for fatal and life-changing crashes. Experts will showcase real-world applications, discuss proactive countermeasures, and outline methodologies used to assess their impact. Learn how this data-driven approach is evolving to reduce roadway fatalities through advanced analytics and predictive modeling.

2:45 p.m. **Wrap up**
Capt. Brian Cheney, northwest Minnesota TZD regional co-chair;
Lt. Brad Norland, Minnesota State Patrol

3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Please take time throughout the day to visit the traffic-safety exhibit tables for reference materials and ideas to implement in your communities.

Venue Wi-Fi Network: ***Johnson Guest***
Password: ***jrsls1964***