

“We KAN Do MO Better”

Planning for a Safer Kansas City Transportation System

**Michael Briggs
Transportation Planner
Mid-America Regional Council**

“We KAN Do MO Better”

“We KAN Be MO Safe”

David Schwartz, Safety Engineer
Kansas Department of Transportation



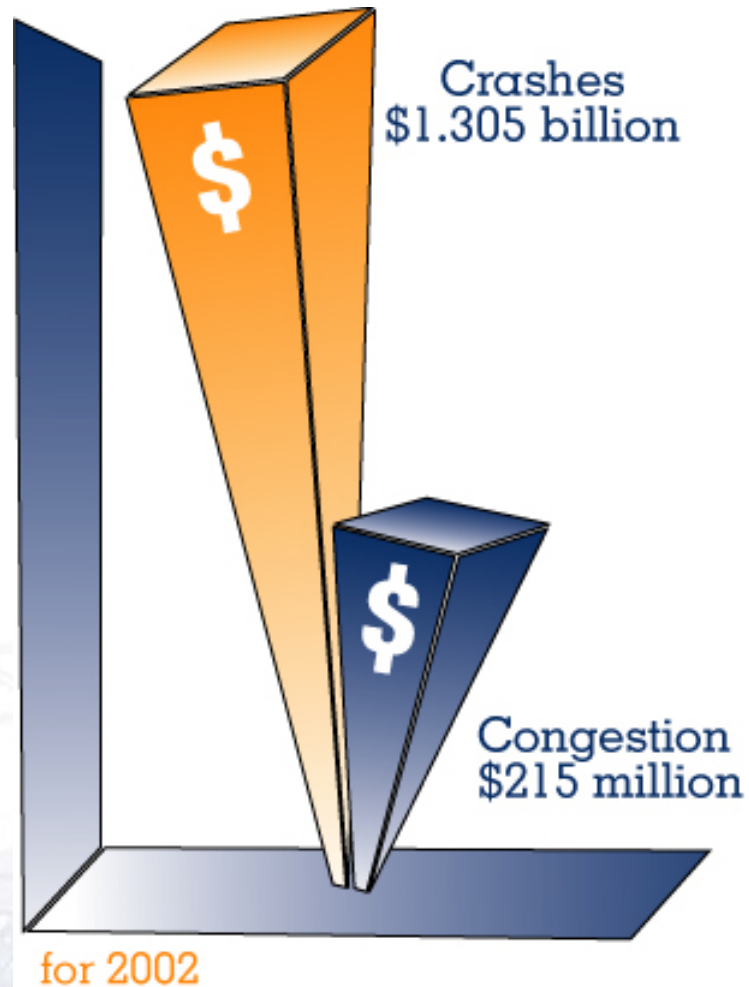
The Kansas City Region



Why is Safety Important?

- In the KC Metropolitan Area in 2004:
 - 62,024 motor vehicle crashes (MVCs).
 - 13,136 were injury-related.
 - 164 were fatal.
 - An MVC was reported every 8 ½ minutes.
 - A person was injured or killed in an MVC every 39 ½ minutes.
- MVCs also have significant economic and social costs.

Regional Economic Costs



Our Region's Response

- *Transportation Outlook 2030*
“...improve the safety, security and well-being of the traveling public.”
- TEA-21 Federal Planning Factor
“Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.”
- SAFETEA-LU Implications
 - Safety and security separate factors
 - MPO involvement in SHSP
- Moral obligation

Our Experience

- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Crash data collection & analyses
- Comprehensive Hwy Safety Plans
(Strategic Highway Safety Plans)

Collaboration Issues

- “Stove pipe mentality”
- Established MPO forum
- No traffic safety involvement
- Bistate region

Collaboration Activities

- Build relationship with traffic safety
- Attend meetings
- Involve local associations (i.e. APWA, APA, etc.)
- Products:
 - Online calendar
 - Increased communication

Crash Data Issues

- Bistate region
- “Untraditional” planning data
- Lack of tools
- Liability issues

Crash Data Activities

- STP/BR Programming
- Examine on a “community level”
- Inform our decision makers
- Establish safety priorities
- Products:
 - Weekly fatality summaries
 - Safety Element in *Transportation Outlook 2030*

SHSP Issues

- Two state plans (bistate region)
- Our regional transportation vision
- No coordination between regional plans and state plans
- Geographic regions

Two Processes

- MPO Process
 - Continuing
 - Cooperative
 - Comprehensive
- SHSP Requirements
 - Collaborative
 - Coordinated
 - Comprehensive
 - Data-driven

Our SHSP Activities

- Missouri Executive Committee member
- Communicate with Kansas Traffic Safety Engineer
- Regional coalition meetings
- Products:
 - Regional blueprint coordinated with Safety Element
 - \$223,000 + in funding

Regional Priorities

- Occupant Protection
- Impaired Driving
- Aggressive Driving
- Pedestrian Safety



MARC
Mid-America Regional Council



We can do our jobs better!

Michael Briggs: mbriggs@marc.org

www.marc.org/transportation/safety

**Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 474-4240**