



**Department of
Transportation**
transportation.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor
Pamela Boratyn, Director

August 4, 2025

Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Executive Directors

Re: Coordinating Annual Safety Performance Targets for 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently completed coordination with the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) to mutually agree on a set of annual safety performance targets for 2026. ODOT and ODPS have once again agreed to two percent (2%) annual reduction targets for all five safety performance measures.

ODOT is now coordinating with Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) on the establishment of these targets. **MPOs have until August 25, 2025, to coordinate with ODOT on the state's safety targets. ODOT is requesting MPO policy board resolutions adopting safety targets by February 27, 2026.** This letter explains how the state establishes its safety targets and the options for MPOs to establish safety targets. Please note that reporting and target setting for other performance measures occur on a separate, biennial cycle.

Background

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires states to establish targets for five safety performance measures for all public roadways within the state regardless of ownership or functional class. The required performance measures are:

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

Together, these performance measures foster transparency and accountability, and help organizations track safety progress at the regional, state, and national level.

Timeline

The timeline for establishing safety performance targets is as follows:

- **August 31, 2025** – ODOT must submit the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Report to FHWA by this date. In turn, MPOs are required to establish safety targets within 180 days of the submittal of ODOT’s HSIP Report.
- **February 27, 2026** – Ohio MPOs must establish safety targets for their respective metropolitan planning areas. ODOT requests that MPO safety performance targets be adopted through MPO policy board resolutions.

Beginning this year, ODPS is no longer required to submit safety performance targets to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on an annual basis. Instead, they will be on a three-year timeline, with the next submittal due July 1, 2026.

Ohio Continuing 2% Annual Reduction Targets

After reviewing historical crash trends and other factors, ODOT and ODPS have once again adopted a two percent (2%) annual reduction target for all five performance measures. Ohio has adopted these aggressive targets because the state is making a record level of investments in safety, totaling \$202 million annually. In addition, we want to emphasize that Ohio is choosing to adopt aggressive target reductions as a matter of philosophy and motivation. Ohio can’t – in good conscience – set negative targets or low expectations and expect to inspire Ohioans to do more to improve safety in our state.

The following table shows Ohio’s safety targets for calendar year (CY) 2026. The baseline and target for each performance measure is based on a 5-year rolling average. The rate of fatalities and serious injuries is determined per 100 million vehicle-miles traveled (VMT). The baseline is Ohio’s actual performance for 2024, calculated using data for 2020 to 2024.

Ohio Safety Performance Targets for 2026

Performance Measure	Baseline (2024)	Target (2026)
Fatalities	1,251	1,201
Fatality Rate	1.13	1.09
Serious Injuries	7,537	7,283
Serious Injury Rate	6.79	6.52
Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries	873	839

Please contact ODOT with any questions or comments on Ohio’s safety performance targets by August 22, 2025.

MPO Safety Performance Targets

For each safety performance measure, each MPO has two options for establishing a target:

- Adopt the statewide target and agree to plan and program projects so they contribute toward the accomplishment of the ODOT safety target for that performance measure; or
- Adopt a cooperatively developed, quantifiable target for that performance measure for its metropolitan planning area.

If your MPO is considering establishing any safety targets specific to its planning area, please coordinate with ODOT prior to adopting the targets. ODOT has created several interactive tools and reports to help MPOs develop regional targets, available here:

<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/safety/data>, including a [Safety Performance Measures](#) dashboard.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Nathaniel Vogt in ODOT's Division of Planning at (614) 351-2849 or nathaniel.vogt@dot.ohio.gov. Please send him your MPO's board resolution adopting safety targets by February 27, 2026.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Gates", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

James Gates, Deputy Director
ODOT Division of Planning

JG:SP: NV