Department of Transportation
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Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Jim Tressel, *Lt. Governor*
Pamela Boratyn, *Director*

July 31, 2026

Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Executive Directors

Re: Coordinating Annual Safety Performance Targets for 2027

Dear Colleagues,

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Department of Public Safety have proposed a set of annual statewide safety performance targets for 2027 representing a two percent (2%) annual reduction from the baseline metrics 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 14, 2026, to review and comment on the state's proposed safety targets. ODOT is requesting MPO policy board resolutions adopting state or regional safety targets by February 27, 2027.** 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.

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Ohio Continuing 2% Annual Reduction Targets

After reviewing historical crash trends and other factors, ODOT and ODPS have proposed a two percent (2%) annual reduction target for all five performance measures. We want to emphasize that Ohio is proposing aggressive targets 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 proposed safety targets for calendar year (CY) 2027. Each performance measure (baseline and target) is 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 2025, calculated using data for 2021 to 2025.

Proposed Ohio Safety Performance Targets for 2027

Performance Measure	Baseline (2025)	Target (2027)
Fatalities	1,228.4	1,179.8
Fatality Rate	1.081	1.038
Serious Injuries	7,541.6	7,243.0
Serious Injury Rate	6.631	6.368
Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries	893.6	858.2

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 state's 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

Timeline

The timeline for establishing safety performance targets is as follows:

Date	Actor	Action
Through August 14, 2026	MPO	MPOs review and comment on the proposed state safety targets.
August 17 – August 28, 2026	ODOT	ODOT considers and responds to MPO comments before establishing statewide targets.
August 31, 2026	ODOT	ODOT submits the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Report to FHWA, thereby establishing statewide targets for 2027. ODOT notifies MPOs of the final targets.
February 27, 2027	MPO	Deadline for MPOs to establish safety targets for 2027. ODOT requests that MPO targets be adopted through policy board resolutions.

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, 2027.

Respectfully,

James Gates, Deputy Director
ODOT Division of Planning

JG:SP: NV