



Governor's Highway Safety Program Becomes Part of VTrans

The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP), which was previously an independent organization, has become a part of VTrans' newly formed Office of Highway Safety (OHS). The mission of the OHS is to combine behavioral and infrastructure considerations to reduce crashes in Vermont. The new department brings together the Highway Safety Unit, Highway Research Unit, Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP), Traffic Operations HSIP Unit and the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance under one group.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program, led by Scott Davidson, is responsible for tackling the behavioral issues of highway safety. Partnering with state and local police departments and state and private educational non-profit organizations, GHSP conducts and supports programs addressing highway safety behavioral concerns. "Click it or Ticket", "Drive Hammered Get Nailed" and "Phones Down Heads Up" are all examples of media campaigns intended to change motorist behavior and keep roadways safe.

Highway Infrastructure Safety Unit is run by Mario Dupigny-Giroux. This group seeks to improve physical aspects of highways to develop a system that improves the drivability for road users and survivability of highway crashes.

The Highway Safety Data Unit is the repository for all crash data in the State of Vermont. Mary Spicer leads this group. They are the keepers of crash data and work with VTrans and its partners to provide data in its most usable form, to help make decisions about how to improve the safety of Vermont's roads. Highway design and operation engineers, law enforcement, and educational groups all utilize data from this group.

The final group within the OHS is the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance (VHSA). Susan Clark is the coordinator of the efforts of this group. The VHSA is a public/private partnership responsible for developing and implementing the Strategic Highway Safety Plan for Vermont. This plan is crash data-driven and defines strategies and specific

actions to reduce highway crashes on Vermont roadways. The VHSA coordinates the actions and resources of engineering, enforcement, education and emergency medical services organizations to collectively implement the Plan.

2014 saw a significant reduction of fatal crashes (26 fewer than 2013). The hope is that the combination of these four units into one cohesive group will reap additional benefits and save more lives in 2015.