

# Michigan Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan 2013-2016

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### Disclaimer Statement

This document has been prepared by the members of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team (PBSAT). It is considered a living document, and is a compilation of activities and initiatives to address pedestrian and bicycle safety in the State of Michigan.

The Action Team is part of a network of ad hoc committees comprised of local, state, federal, and private partners, working in collaboration with the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) to identify traffic safety challenges and comprehensive solutions. The result of these efforts will support achievement of the mission, vision, and goals identified in the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). While the strategies identified in the State's SHSP have been approved by the GTSAC, the activities and initiatives identified in this Action Plan, as well as any opinions or conclusions expressed, are those of the individual Action Team member agencies and not necessarily those of the GTSAC.

## Introduction

For more than a decade, national organizations such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Centers for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion (CDC) have stressed the need for safer travel for pedestrians and bicyclists, providing Americans with greater mobility, accessibility, and opportunities for physical activity. Nationally and in Michigan, crashes involving pedestrians and/or bicyclists have been disproportioned to their share of travel.

The State of Michigan has and will continue to recognize the importance of safe pedestrian and bicycle travel. Michigan is developing regional bicycle plans, has a safe routes to school program, and many health initiatives that support increasing bicycling and walking. Michigan is a leader in *Complete Streets* with an advisory council and policy guiding Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOTs) implementation of the enabling legislation. As of June 2013, over 80 agencies across Michigan have local complete streets ordinances, policies, or resolutions.

All of this success brings new challenges, especially among the youth and senior populations. Distracted traveling, violations of vehicle code, and impairment (intoxication) are contributing to higher crashes among those who walk or bicycle as a healthy, cost effective, and efficient mode of transportation or recreation.

The following statistics provide a snapshot of the pedestrian/bicyclist safety issues in Michigan:

- In 2012, 1,981 bicyclists were involved in motor vehicle crashes, with 20 bicyclists killed and 1,598 injured. From 2010-2012, of all bicyclists killed, 17.9 percent were under the age of 21 and 12.8 percent were 65 and older. The 45-54 age group represented the largest proportion of bicycle fatalities with 33.3 percent from 2010-2012.
- In 2012, 2,397 pedestrians were involved in motor vehicle crashes, with 133 pedestrians killed and 1,962 injured. From 2010-2012 of all pedestrians killed, 13.2 percent were under the age of 21 and 18.4 percent were 65 and older. The 45-54 age group represented the largest proportion of pedestrian fatalities with 20.2 percent from 2010-2012.
- Alcohol and drug involvement in a crash, either for the pedestrian or the driver, accounted for 42 (31.5 percent) and 17 (12.7 percent), respectively, of pedestrian fatalities. Together, alcohol and drug involvement account for 44 percent of pedestrian fatalities.
- From 2010-2012 five counties (Wayne (122), Oakland (38), Genesee (33), Macomb (31) and Kent (20)) accounted for 60.4 percent (244) pedestrian fatalities. Of these five, Wayne County accounted for 50 percent of those fatalities. Within Wayne County, the City of Detroit represents 63.9 percent (78) of those fatalities. Wayne County has approximately 18 percent of statewide population.
- From 2008-2012 five counties (Wayne (18), Macomb (13), Kent (9), Oakland (7) and Ottawa (6)) accounted for 45.3 percent (53) bicycle fatalities. Of these five, Wayne County accounted for 34 percent of those fatalities. Within Wayne County, the City of Detroit represents 55.6 percent (10) of those fatalities.
- For perspective, the City of Detroit has a population that is approximately seven percent of the statewide population. From 2008-2012 there have been 137 pedestrian fatalities and 361 severe-injuries. From 2008-2012 there have been 10 bicycle fatalities and 60 severe-injuries. Over this five year period there have been 147 fatalities and 421 severities combined.

Across Michigan, there is greater demand for coordinated walking and bicycling facilities, educational and enforcement programs, and encouragement opportunities. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team (PBSAT), a GTSAC sub-committee consisting of multiple agencies and disciplines, is working to change these trends.

## Goals

PBSAT goals are **SMART**: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-bound

The following goals are suggested based on the existing trends of fatal and severe pedestrian crashes versus their percent of total fatal and severe for a nine-year history.

- Save seven lives through the reduction of pedestrian fatalities by five percent by 2016.
- Save 26 incapacitating-injuries through the reduction of severe pedestrian crashes by eight percent by 2016.
- Save two lives through the reduction of bicycle fatalities five percent by 2016.
- Save 14 incapacitating-injuries through the reduction of severe bicycle crashes by eight percent by 2016.
- Decrease total pedestrian crashes by 15 percent by 2016.
- Decrease total bicycle crashes by seven percent by 2016.

## Strategies

<p><b>Identify and promote the use of best practices when designing and operating transportation facilities.</b></p>
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### Objective #1

Increase the number, and improve the operation of, pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the State of Michigan.

#### **Mid-Term (3-5 years) Activities:**

Identify best practices for college campuses.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Encourage data collection on new and existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Assess relationships between U.S. Census American Community Survey commute by bicycle crash data, infrastructure development, and employment.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Identify ways to influence design of the statewide Household Travel Survey to better account for bicyclists and pedestrians in metropolitan areas, providing parity with measures taken for transit usage.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Assess the relationships between the U.S. Census American Community Survey commute by bicycle and the statewide Household Travel Survey.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

**Ongoing Activities/Actions:**

Conduct trainings highlighting best practices at all levels of government with programs such as Training Wheels, American Disabilities Act (ADA) training, and pedestrian safety.

*Lead Agencies: MDOT, League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB)*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Investigate innovative training programs nationwide.

*Lead Agencies: MDOT, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Promote national webinars and trainings from various professional organizations.

*Lead Agency: MDOT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Encourage best practices including sidewalks, shoulders, refuge islands, road diets, bike lanes.

*Lead Agencies: FHWA, MDOT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Promote and support *Road Safety Audits* and other assessments.

*Lead Agencies: FHWA, MDOT, LMB, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

<b>Raise awareness of pedestrian and bicycle safety</b>
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**Objective #2**

Improve motorist, bicyclist, and pedestrian behavior when sharing or crossing facilities.

**Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Fund pedestrian and bicycle safety projects.

*Lead Agencies: OHSP, MDOT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Support to implement statewide or local pedestrian and/or bicycle safety and share the road media campaigns.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Promote the Secretary of State (SOS) bicycle safety radio public service announcement.

*Lead Agency: Michigan Department of State (MDOS), PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Develop and promote a bicycle safety video public service announcement (PSA) similar to the SOS radio PSA.

*Lead Agencies: MDOT, MDOS*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Develop and implement a pedestrian and bicycle safety message for *Motor Vehicle Network*.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Develop and implement a pedestrian and bicycle safety message for MDOS *Express News*.

*Lead Agency: MDOS*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Update materials used by driver education instructors.

*Lead Agency: MDOT, LMB, Michigan Department of Education (MDE)*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Advocate for increased spending on pedestrian and bicycle initiatives from programs focused on safety.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

**Mid-Term (3-5 years) Activities:**

Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle safety planning into Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and rural task force safety planning process.

*Lead Agencies: MDOT, FHWA*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Support to implement statewide or local pedestrian and/or bicycle safety media campaign.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Assess compliance of pedestrian and bicycle behavior on campuses.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Create bicycle and pedestrian safety and education toolkit for college students.

*Lead Agency: PBSAT*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Encourage and/or support revisions and updates to educational and training materials related to motor vehicle drivers that recognize multimodal transportation and new roadway designs intended to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety.

*Lead Agencies: PBSAT, MDOS, MDOT, LMB*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

**Ongoing Activities/Actions:**

Analyze and distribute pedestrian and bicycle crash data.

*Lead Agency: OHSP, MDOT, LMB*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Educate motorist, pedestrians, and bicyclists on safe behavior and laws.

*Lead Agency: MDOS, MDE, Michigan State Police (MSP), LMB, MDCH, OHSP, MDOT, Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF)*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Engage and educate law enforcement personnel on pedestrian and bicycle laws and data.

*Lead Agencies: MDE, LMB, OHSP, MSP*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Educate the public on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

*Lead Agencies: MDOS, MDCH, MDE*

*Contact Name: PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

## Provide recommendations related to pedestrian and bicycle safety legislation

### Objective #3

Identify inconsistencies or gaps in current laws pertaining to pedestrian and bicycle safety.

#### **Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Identify legislative solutions pertaining to pedestrian and bicycle safety.

*Lead Agencies:* MDCH, LMB, MDOT, MFF

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

Develop proposed legislation supporting establishing a safe bicycle passing distance; increasing driver education curriculum for bicycle and pedestrian content; and enhanced penalties for crashes involving vulnerable users.

*Lead Agencies:* MFF, LMB

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

Consider and monitor pedestrian safety practices.

*Lead Agencies:* MDOT, MFF, LMB

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

#### **Mid-Term (3-5 years) Activities:**

Develop proposed legislation supporting strengthening distracted driving laws, penalties for recklessly endangering bicyclists by blocking the path of travel ('dooring', parking in bicycle lanes, etc.), etc.

*Lead Agencies:* MDOT, MFF, LMB

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

#### **Ongoing Activities/Actions:**

Monitor legislation affecting pedestrian and bicycle safety.

*Lead Agencies:* PBSAT

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

Encourage local agencies (counties, cities, villages) to adopt *Complete Streets* policies.

*Lead Agencies:* LMB, MFF

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

## Recognize successful pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives

### Objective #4

Identification of existing and research practices that are innovative and successful pertaining pedestrian and bicycle safety programs and initiatives.

#### **Ongoing Activities/Actions:**

Recognize proactive jurisdictions, or jurisdictions highly active in promoting safety of pedestrians and bicyclists with nominations for annual awards.

*Lead Agency:* PBSAT

*Contact Name:* PBSAT Action Team Chairs

Identify successful community stories and promote statewide.

*Lead Agency:* PBSAT

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Literature review of existing and researched pedestrian and bicycle safety programs and initiatives.

Lead Agency: *PBSAT*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Fund pedestrian and bicycle safety projects.

Lead Agencies: *MDOT, SEMCOG*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Determine focus communities, cities, and agencies for priority assistance</b></p>
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**Objective #5**

Reduce crashes and injuries among pedestrian and bicyclists in identified communities across the state.

**Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:**

Identify communities with high or above average crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists.

Lead Agency: *MDOT, OHSP*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Identify and document crash location characteristics and crash type characteristics.

Lead Agency: *MDOT, OHSP*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

Advocate for increased spending on pedestrian and bicycle initiatives from programs focused on safety.

Lead Agency: *PBSAT*

**Mid-Term (3-5 years) Activities:**

Provide technical assistance to communities to identify acceptable and feasible crash counter measures.

Lead Agency: *MDOT, FHWA*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*

**Ongoing Activities/Actions:**

Provide presentations, literature, and technical assistance as feasible on pedestrian and bicycle crashes in identified communities.

Lead Agency: *MDOT, OHSP, LMB*

Contact Name: *PBSAT Action Team Chairs*



## Acronyms

AAA	American Automobile Association
AAA 1-B	Area Agency on Aging 1-B
AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CDC	Center for Disease & Health Promotion
EMS	Emergency Management System
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GTSAC	Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission
LMB	League of Michigan Bicyclists
MDCH	Michigan Department of Community Health
MDE	Michigan Department of Education
MDOS	Michigan Department of State
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation
MFF	Michigan Fitness Foundation
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MVN	Motor Vehicle Network
NACEM	North American Conference on Elderly Mobility
NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
OHSP	Office of Highway Safety Planning
OSA	Office of Services to the Aging
PBSAT	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team
RIDP	AAA Road Improvement Demonstration Program
SDAP	Senior Driver Awareness Program
SEMCOG	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
SHSP	Strategic Highway Safety Plan
SMWG	Senior Mobility Work Group
SOS	Secretary of State
TIA	Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County
TRB	Transportation Research Board
UMTRI	University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled

## Acknowledgements

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team consist of members of the following agencies:

MDOT  
MDCH  
MDE  
MOHSP  
MDOS  
MSP  
SEMCOG  
FHWA  
TIA  
MFF  
Michigan Trails and Greenways  
City of Detroit  
Greenway Collaborative  
Opus International  
Clean Energy Coalition  
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
League of Michigan Bicyclists  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University