

# The Role of Law Enforcement in Promoting Motorcycle Safety

Licensing

Enforcement

Education



Mike Turcott  
2014 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit

# Strategic Highway Safety Plan Target Zero

- Zero by 2030
- The Four E's
- Data-Driven Priorities
- Motorcycles



# Strategic Highway Safety Plan Target Zero

## All Traffic Fatalities

- 2002: 658
- 2012: 444
- 2013: 435\*

## Motorcycle Fatalities

- 2002: 53
- 2012: 82
- 2013: 73\*

\*2013 data preliminary

Source: FARS



# Motorcycle Safety and Enforcement

Promoting Training and Licensing  
Promoting Safe and Legal Riding Practices

Through

Public Education  
Traffic Law Enforcement

# Sociology 101

- Rational Choice Theory
  - Analysis of Cost vs. Benefit
  
- Deterrence Theory
  - It's all about the sanction

# Sociology 101

## Salzburg and Moffat

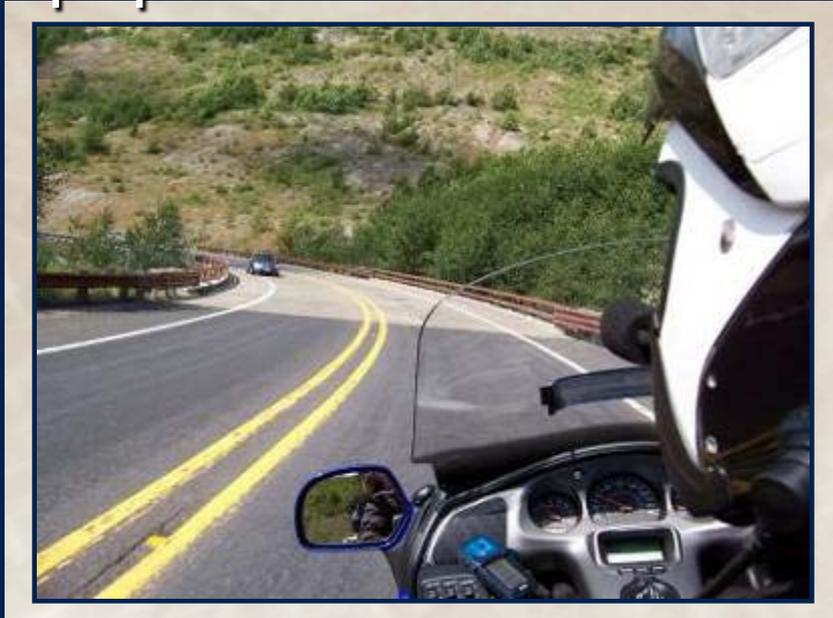
“Ninety-Five Percent: Law, Policy and Programs to Promote Seatbelt Use in Washington”

- Sanction was immediate, likely and significant
- Behaviors changed



# 2005: The Sky is Falling!

**Assumption:** The recent increase in motorcycle fatalities correlates directly with increase in riding population.



**(Not true)**

- From 1997 to 2005
  - Motorcycle Registrations up 74%
    - 1997: 94,081
    - 2005: 163,304
  - Motorcycle Fatalities up **164%**
    - 1997: 28
    - 2005: 74

# Just the Facts!

- The most common contributing factors are:
  - Lane error
  - Speeding
  - Alcohol
  - Inattention
- 51% of fatalities involve drug and/or alcohol impairment.
- 39% of fatally injured riders had no endorsement.

# Just the Facts!

- Most fatalities occur during daylight hours, in dry weather, between April and September.
- More than half are single-vehicle crashes.
- Approximately 75% caused by motorcycle rider.

*“The task force concluded that, while there are multiple contributions to motorcycle crashes that result in fatalities or serious injuries, it appears that the most important factors are within the control of the rider. Efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries should focus on rider skill and behavior.”*



# Motorcycle Safety Task Force

- Report published June 2006
- Recommendations in three areas:
  - Rider Education
  - Public Awareness
  - Accountability and Enforcement



# Accountability and Enforcement

- Impound motorcycles operated by non-endorsed riders
- Link registration database to endorsement database
- Notify unendorsed owners of the requirement for an endorsement

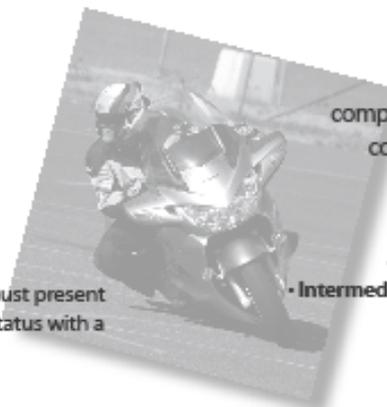
# Ride legally. **Get endorsed.**

## Steps to get a motorcycle learners' permit:

Go to your local driver licensing office:  
pass the knowledge test  
pay permit fee (\$15)

### Limitations:

- riders can obtain up to 3 permits
- each permit is valid 90 days
- before final permit is issued, rider must present confirmation showing enrollment status with a rider education course
- no passengers allowed



## Steps to get your endorsement:

Two easy ways to become endorsed:  
complete approved rider education course  
complete testing at driver license office

### Rider Education courses:

- **Basic:** for new riders with no experience
- **Intermediate:** riders who can shift and stop (1 day)
- **Experienced** (1 day, use own bike)

### Driver Licensing Office:

pass knowledge (written) test

For rider training and endorsement info:

[dol.wa.gov](http://dol.wa.gov)

email: [motorcycle@dol.wa.gov](mailto:motorcycle@dol.wa.gov)

OR phone: 800-962-9010 TTY: 360-664-0116



Don't  
Motorcycle  
enforcement

## Get endorsed to ride legally. May is motorcycle safety month.

Operating a motorcycle on Washington roads requires an endorsement.

*It's not difficult to become an endorsed rider.  
There are two easy ways to get there:*

- 1) take a motorcycle safety training course.
- 2) complete the written and riding skills test at your local driver licensing office

If you're not endorsed, law enforcement can impound your bike or not let you continue your ride, even if you're stopped for a simple traffic violation. Ride smart. Ride endorsed.

Endorsement & motorcycle safety training info: [dol.wa.gov](http://dol.wa.gov)

phone: 800-962-9010 TTY: 360-664-8885



Look Twice.  
Save your Life.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LICENSING**

WASHINGTON  
**Traffic Safety**  
FOUNDATION

**WSP**

# Going Further...

- WSP – Four areas of focus

Public  
Education/  
Outreach



Legislation

Enforcement



Officer  
Training

# WSP Response

- Public Education and Media Relations
  - Proactive
  - Reactive
  - Community Events



**Look Twice.**  
Save a life.

— — — — —  
**Share the road with Motorcycles.**

 WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LICENSING**

 WASHINGTON  
**Traffic Safety**



**LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE  
WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**RIDE SAFE RIDE SOBER  
RIDE ENDORSED**

# ***We're watching.***



**Riding or driving drunk or high? We'll provide the chaser.**

*Riding while impaired is one of the top three causes of motorcycle injury crashes.*



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LICENSING

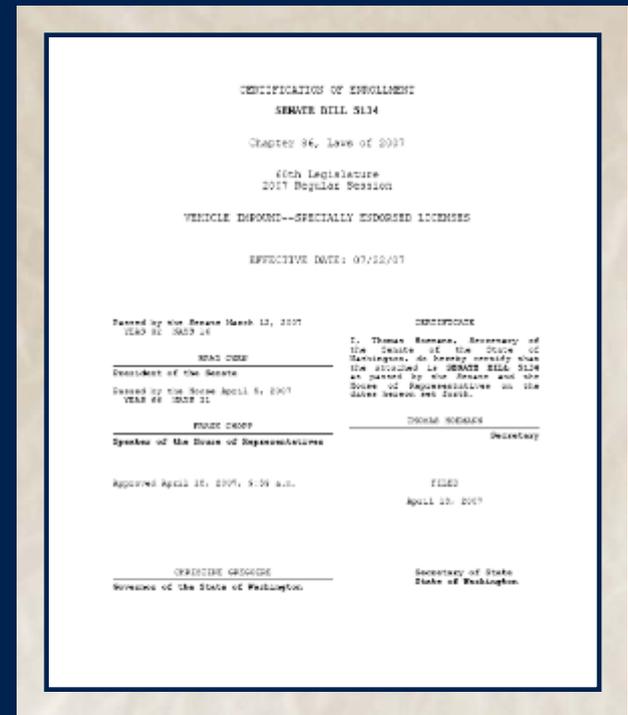


# Response

- Enforcement
  - Collision Causing Violations
    - DUI
    - Speeding
    - Reckless Driving
    - Lane Splitting
  - Endorsements
  - Helmets

# Response

- Legislation
  - Senate Bill 5134: Authorizes police officers to impound vehicles operated by drivers without specially endorsed licenses (effective July 2007).



# Response

- Officer Training
  - WTSC Roll Call Video
  - IADLEST MSET Training
  - Helmet Identification
  - Impaired Riders
  - Violation Guides





# ROLL CALL: MOTORCYCLE ENFORCEMENT



# IADLEST/NHTSA MSET Training

- Introduction
- Motorcycle Types and Characteristics
- Laws: Equipment and Operation
- Officer/Motorcyclist Safety
- Crash Investigation
- DUI Detection
- Helmets
- Public Education

## **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT TRAINING**

Student Handbook

International  
Association of Directors of Law Enforcement  
Standards and Training (IADLEST)

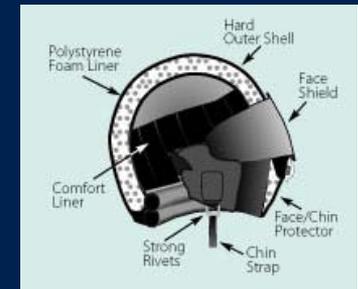
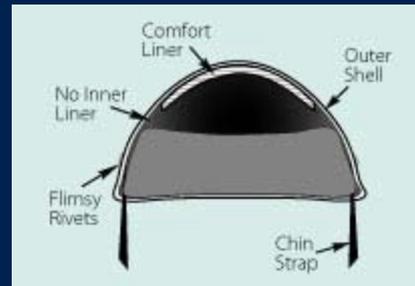
National  
Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration (NHTSA)



February 20, 2012

# Helmet Identification

- FMVSS 218  
(49 CFR 571.218)
- NHTSA Video on Youtube.



**Know What to Look For:**

**IT'S YOUR HEAD, WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**Is YOUR GEAR LEGIT?**

Brought to you by:

WASHINGTON Traffic Safety COMMISSION

WSP WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

For more information on helmet safety visit: [www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)

**This IS BOGUS**  
Don't Let the Shiny Shell Fool You

Motorcycle riders and passengers need to wear helmets that meet federal standards and that conform to Washington law RCW 46.37.030(3). Studies across the country show that wearing an approved helmet can prevent fatal or serious injuries. Please be sure to

**RIDE SAFELY**  
by wearing a helmet that meets the standards identified in this brochure.

**BE LEGIT**

**BOGUS HELMETS**

# Detection of DUI Motorcyclists

- NHTSA (2010)
  - 1,000 DUI cases
  - 14 riding cues
  - “Excellent” cues
  - “Good” cues

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## The Detection of DWI Motorcyclists



\*\*\*\*\*  
**NHTSA**  
www.nhtsa.gov

### Motorcycle DWI Detection Guide

NHTSA has found that the following cues predicted impaired motorcycle operation.

#### Excellent Cues (50% or greater probability)

- Drifting during turn or curve
- Trouble with dismount
- Trouble with balance at a stop
- Turning problems (e.g., unsteady, sudden corrections, late braking, improper lean angle)
- Inattentive to surroundings
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior (e.g., carrying or dropping object, urinating at roadside, disorderly conduct, etc.)
- Weaving

#### Good Cues (30 to 50% probability)

- Erratic movements while going straight
- Operating without lights at night
- Recklessness
- Following too closely
- Running stop light or sign
- Evasion
- Wrong way

# Officer's Guide to Motorcycle Safety

- Laminated Card
  - Safety Facts
  - Common Violations
  - Resources
  - Fits in Ticket Book

## *Officer's Guide to MOTORCYCLE SAFETY Through Education and Enforcement*

*A strong public education effort, backed up by strict, consistent enforcement, is an effective combination to improve rider behavior and prevent collisions.*

### **MOTORCYCLE FACTS\***

Between 1997 and 2008, in the state of Washington:

- Motorcycle registrations increased 136%
- Motorcycle fatalities increased 189%
- Nearly half of fatal motorcycle crashes were single-vehicle collisions
- One-third of fatalities involved an unendorsed rider
- Alcohol was involved in fatal motorcycle collisions more frequently than with other types of vehicles
- The most common causing violations were lane errors, speeding, impaired driving, and rider inattention
- The majority of fatal motorcycle crashes occurred between April and September, in dry conditions and during daylight hours

\*Sources: DOL, FARS, WTSC

### **RULES OF THE ROAD**

- RCW 46.61.400 – Speeding
- RCW 46.61.525 – Negligent Driving Second Degree
- RCW 46.61.5249 – Negligent Driving First Degree
- RCW 46.61.502 – Driving Under the Influence
- RCW 46.61.500 – Reckless Driving
- RCW 46.61.530 – Reckless Driving (racing)
- RCW 46.61.608 – Lane splitting prohibited
- RCW 46.61.610 – Riding; seats and foot pegs required
- RCW 46.61.612 – Riding; one leg must be on each side of motorcycle

# Motorcycle Violation Guides

## Examples:

- RCW 46.16A.200
  - License plate must be attached to rear, horizontally mounted and plainly read



# Motorcycle Violation Guides

## Examples:

- RCW 46.61.611
  - Handlebars may be no more than 30" higher than seat
  - "Ape Hangers"



# Motorcycle Violation Guides

## Examples:

- RCW 46.37.530
  - Two mirrors required



# Motorcycle Violation Guides

## Examples:

- WAC 204-21-060
  - Turn signals spacing requirements
  - After 1973 must be 16 inches apart



# Response

- Motorcycle Profiling
- ESB 5242 (2011)
- RCW 43.101.419
  - Training
  - Policy
  - Definition

# Countermeasures That Work:

A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide  
For State Highway Safety Offices  
Seventh Edition, 2013



U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration

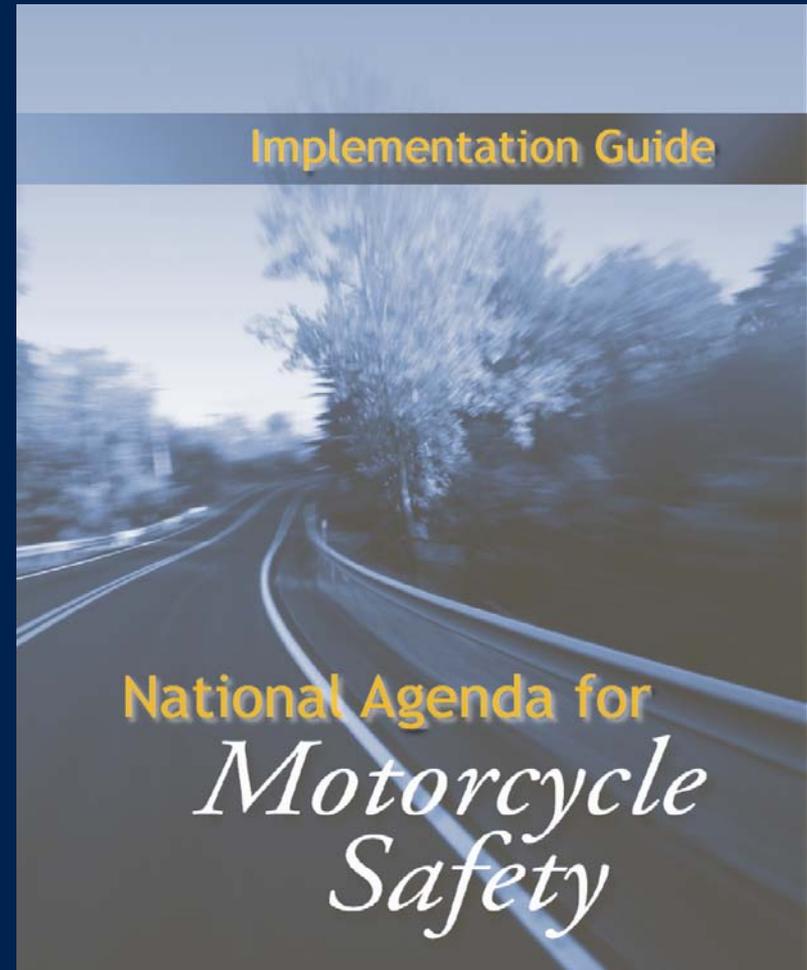


1. Motorcycle Helmets
2. Alcohol Impairment
3. Motorcycle Rider Licensing and Training
4. Communications and Outreach

# NHTSA/MSF

## National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety

Law Enforcement is responsible for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations intended to promote and maintain highway safety, and in an integral component of motorcycle safety.

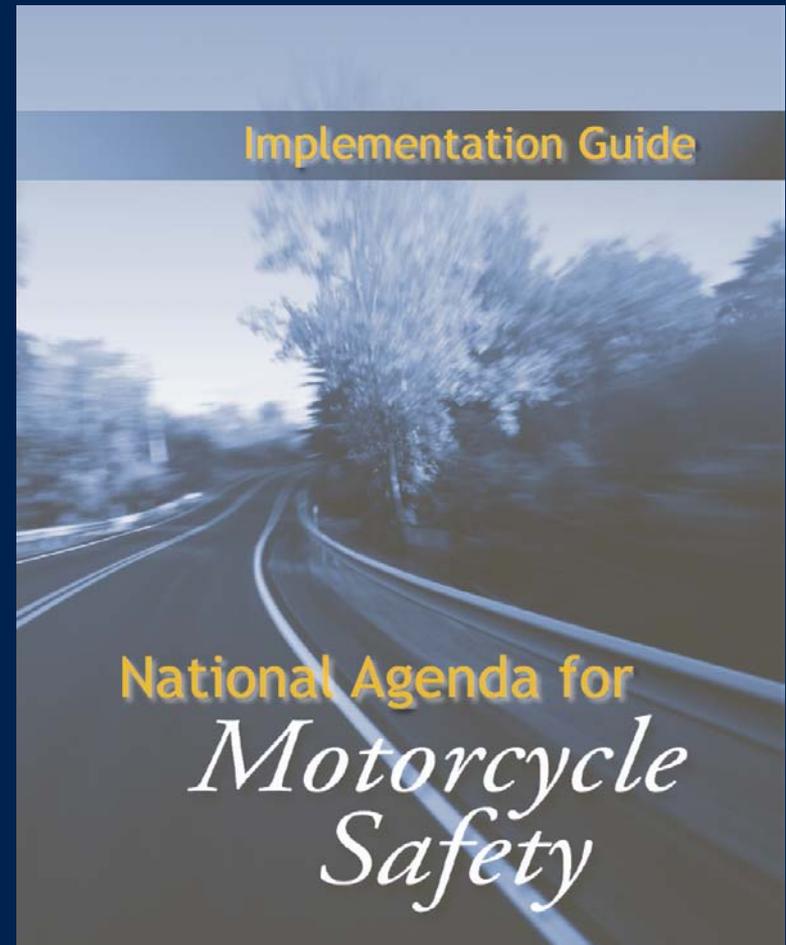


# NHTSA/MSF

## National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety

### Recommendations:

- Educate LE and Judicial Officials
- Include LE in Program Assessments
- Crash Data Collection
- Crash Investigation Training
- Sanctions for Motorists



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