

10. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

BACKGROUND

The Federal Highway Administration requires an annual submission of safety performance measures by state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations. The five federal safety performance measures are listed below.

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities (per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT))
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries (per 100 million VMT)
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries (pedestrians and bicyclists).

The Houston-Galveston Area Council uses a methodology of a five-year rolling average to determine safety performance measures. The data used to determine the measurements are derived from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Crash Record Information System (CRIS) data.

CURRENT SITUATION

The table below shows the H-GAC safety performance measures:

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Five Year Average
Number of Fatalities	838	824	796	767	810	807
VMT (100 million miles)	586.2	612.31	641.50	648.86	676.51	
Rate of Fatalities	1.43	1.35	1.24	1.15	1.20	1.30
Number of Serious Injuries	4377	4281	4274	4099	4213	4249
Rate of Serious Injuries	7.47	6.99	6.66	6.15	6.23	6.73
Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries	786	804	893	821	869	835

(Source: TxDOT Crash Record Information System, 01/08/2026)

Details regarding each of the five performance measures are located on the following two pages.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.

Performance Measures and Targets

Total number of traffic fatalities

Decrease the expected rise of fatalities to no more than a five-year rolling average of 807 fatalities in 2026. The 5-year average is as follows:

Year	Actual Data	Source
2021	838	CRIS
2022	824	CRIS
2023	796	CRIS
2024	767	CRIS
2025	810	CRIS
5-year average		807

Total number of serious injuries

Decrease the expected rise of serious injuries to no more than a five-year rolling average of 4,249 serious injuries in 2026. The 5-year average is as follows:

Year	Target or Actual Data	Source
2021	4,377	CRIS
2022	4,281	CRIS
2023	4,274	CRIS
2024	4,099	CRIS
2025	4,213	CRIS
5-year average		4,249

Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled

Decrease the expected rise of fatalities per 100 million VMT to no more than a five-year rolling average of 1.30 fatalities per 100 million VMT in 2026. The 5-year average is as follows:

Year	Target or Actual Data	Source
2021	1.43	CRIS
2022	1.35	CRIS
2023	1.24	CRIS
2024	1.15	CRIS
2025	1.20	CRIS
5-year average		1.30

Target: Serious Injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled

2026 Target: Decrease the serious injuries per 100 MVMT to no more than a five-year rolling average of 6.73 serious injuries per 100 MVMT in 2026. The 2026 Target expressed as a 5-year average is as follows:

Year	Target or Actual Data	Source
2021	7.47	CRIS
2022	6.99	CRIS
2023	6.66	CRIS
2024	6.15	CRIS
2025	6.23	CRIS
5-year average	6.73	

Target: Total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

2026 Target: Decrease the expected rise of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries to not more than a five year rolling average of 835 non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries in 2026. The 2026 Target expressed as a 5-year average is as follows:

Year	Target or Actual Data	Source
2021	786	CRIS
2022	804	CRIS
2023	893	CRIS
2024	821	CRIS
2025	869	CRIS
5-year average	835	

As noted in the table above, the calendar year target for 2026 would be 835 non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.