



**WORLD DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE**
FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS IN THE U.S.



Even one death on our roads is too many

No community should have to experience the loss of a loved one on our region's streets and roads. That is why the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopted a Vision Zero Action Plan. Join us in working towards this vision to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways by instituting policies that encourage safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users.

The Roadway Safety Problem

Across the country and in the Boston region, we have a roadway safety problem. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the US¹ and have increased in Massachusetts.

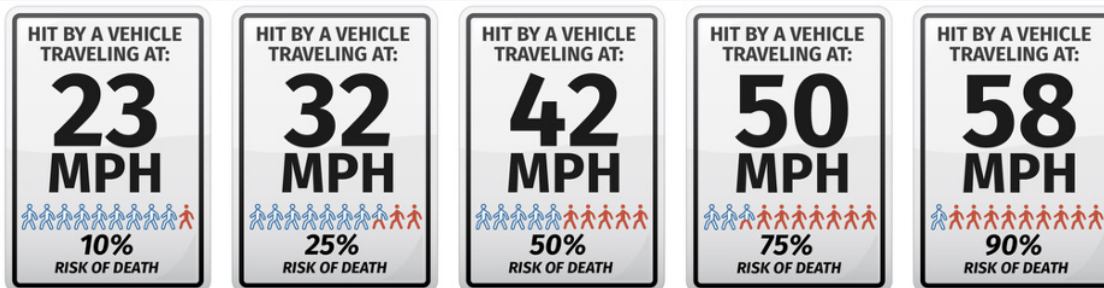
- In 2024, almost 40,000 people were killed in traffic crashes nationwide.
- In the Boston region, every year approximately 1,000 people are seriously injured or killed in traffic crashes.

On World Day of Remembrance, we remember those who were lost and commit to taking action to improve traffic safety in our region.

Safe Speeds Save Lives

On this year's World Day of Remembrance, the Boston Region MPO is joining transportation safety leaders around the world to acknowledge that Safe Speeds Save Lives. **Between 2018 to 2022, speeding-related crashes that resulted in fatalities and serious injuries increased by 91 percent in the Boston region.**

Even small increases in vehicle speed can greatly increase the risk of a crash resulting in a serious injury or death, particularly for people outside of a vehicle.²



Risk of death for a pedestrian hit by a vehicle at different speeds. Source: Federal Highway Administration.

What can you do?

Vision Zero succeeds when it becomes a local priority. We all play a role in improving the safety of our streets. To save lives, we must all work together to lower vehicle speeds on our streets.

For Municipal Leaders

Prioritize best-practice street design changes for slowing traffic at high-risk locations, such as neighborhoods, school zones, and commercial districts.

Traffic-calming measures can have a big impact; for example, road diets can reduce total crashes by as much as 47 percent.³

Adopt a 25 mile per hour (mph) speed limit in high-density areas and business districts, as authorized under state law.

Local main streets and neighborhoods are places to come and spend time, not to pass through at high speeds, so make sure that speed limits reflect that.

Establish safety zones and school zones in municipally owned corridors to lower speeds to 20 mph.

If you already have school and safety zones but drivers are regularly exceeding the speed limit, explore traffic-calming measures that could slow speeds.

For Residents / Advocates

Drive within the speed limit, and respect school zones.

If you are in an area where you see children, elderly residents, pedestrians, or bicyclists, slow down and stay alert.

Work with your local leaders to encourage safe speeds in your community, from advocating for local speed limit policies to implementing traffic-calming measures.

Are there certain areas where people routinely drive too fast? Bring this issue to the attention of your local leaders.

Check out the Boston Region's Vision Zero Action Plan and **find out how Vision Zero is being adopted locally.**

Does your city or town have a local Vision Zero policy? If not, work with local leaders to establish a policy with a timeline and measurable goals.



Learn more about crashes in your own community by exploring the Vision Zero Dashboard and reading the Vision Zero Action Plan.

¹ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
<https://www.cdc.gov/transportation-safety/about/index.html>.

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/book/countermeasures-that-work/speeding-and-speed-management/understanding-problem>.

³ Federal Highway Administration.
<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/road-diets-roadway-reconfiguration>.