



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

North Carolina  
Department of Transportation

J. Kevin Lacy, P.E.

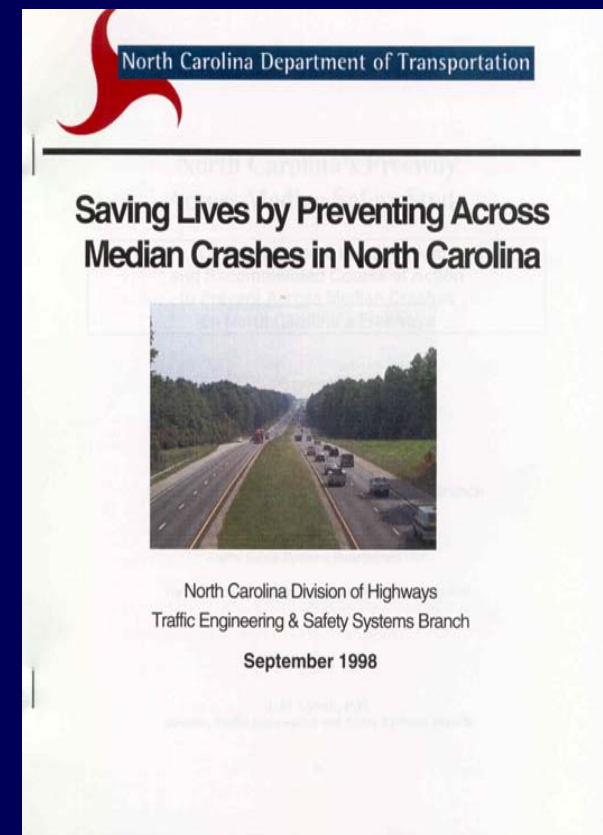
# North Carolina is a Leader in Highway Safety



# North Carolina Highway Safety Initiatives

## ■ Median Barrier

- Programmed approximately 1,000 miles through 2003
- Installed over 700 miles to date
- Saving lives by preventing Across Median Crashes



# North Carolina Highway Safety Initiatives

## ■ Sealed Corridor Initiative

- Washington, DC-Raleigh-Charlotte rail corridor identified as one of five nationally designated future high-speed rail corridors
- In essence, we are "sealing" the corridor by protecting every public crossing with
  - video monitoring
  - median separators,
  - longer gate arms,
  - four-quadrant gates
  - innovative signage



# North Carolina Highway Safety Initiatives

## ■ Click It or Ticket

- Increased Seat Belt Usage to nearly 85%
- Since inception in 1993, reduced fatalities and serious injuries by 14%



## ■ Booze It & Lose It

- Campaign targeting drunken drivers
- 22% decrease in alcohol related fatalities



# North Carolina Highway Safety Initiatives

*Many of North Carolina Department of Transportation's safety programs serve as models for the rest of the Nation*

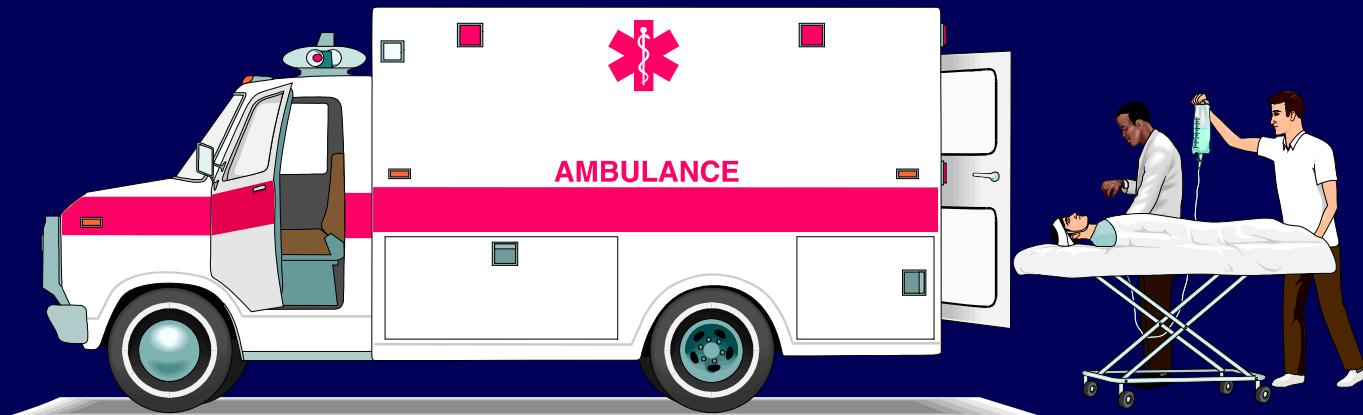


**However.....**



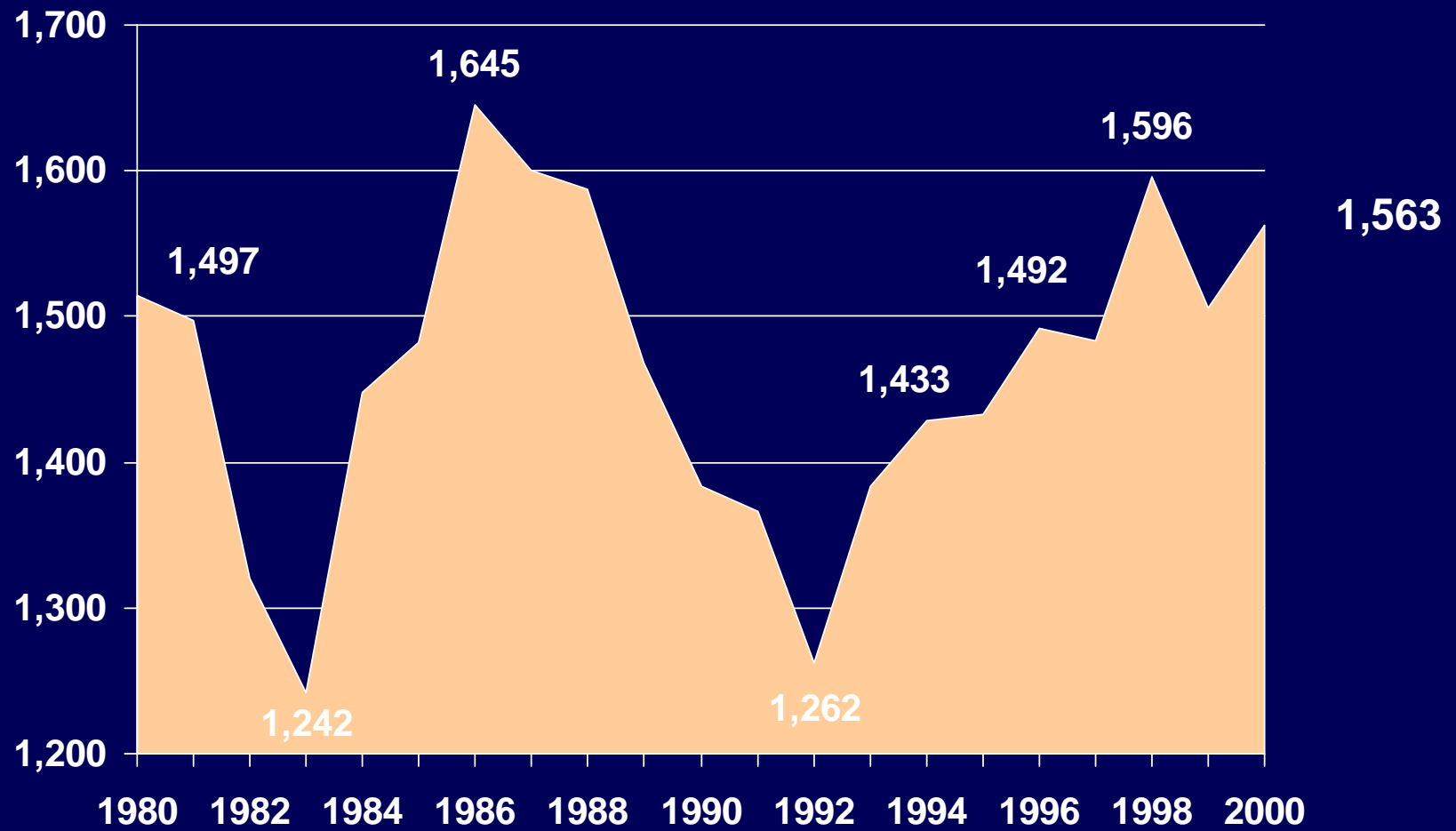
# North Carolina Crash Picture

- In 2001
  - Over 217,794 reported traffic crashes
    - Resulted in 1,530 fatalities
    - Over 134,122 injuries

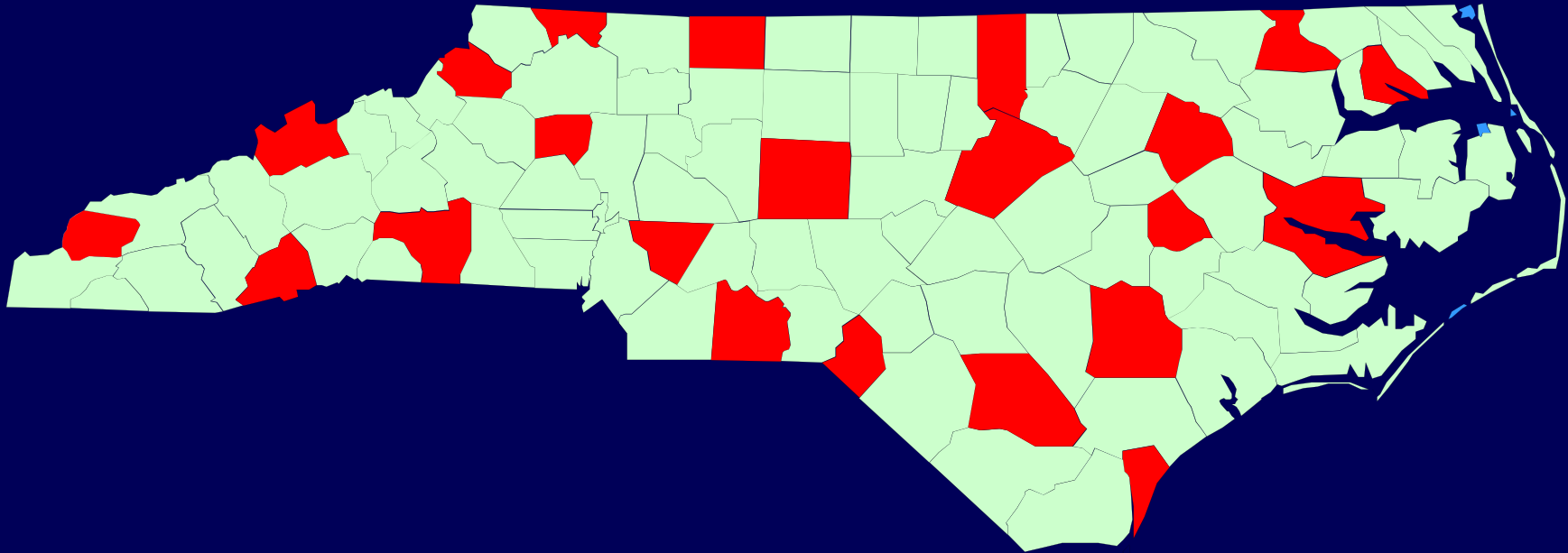




# N. C. Total Fatalities



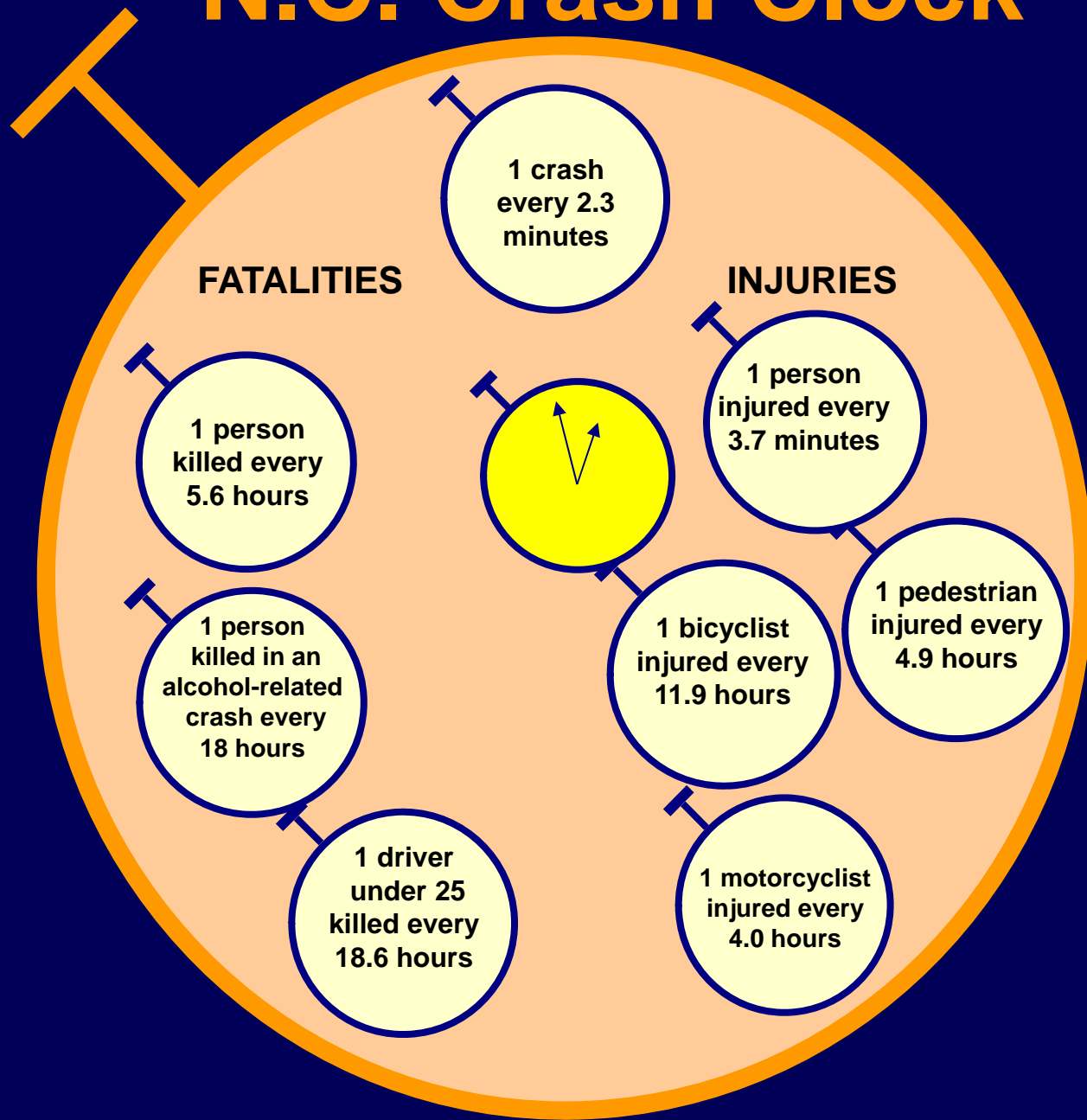
# N.C. Trend



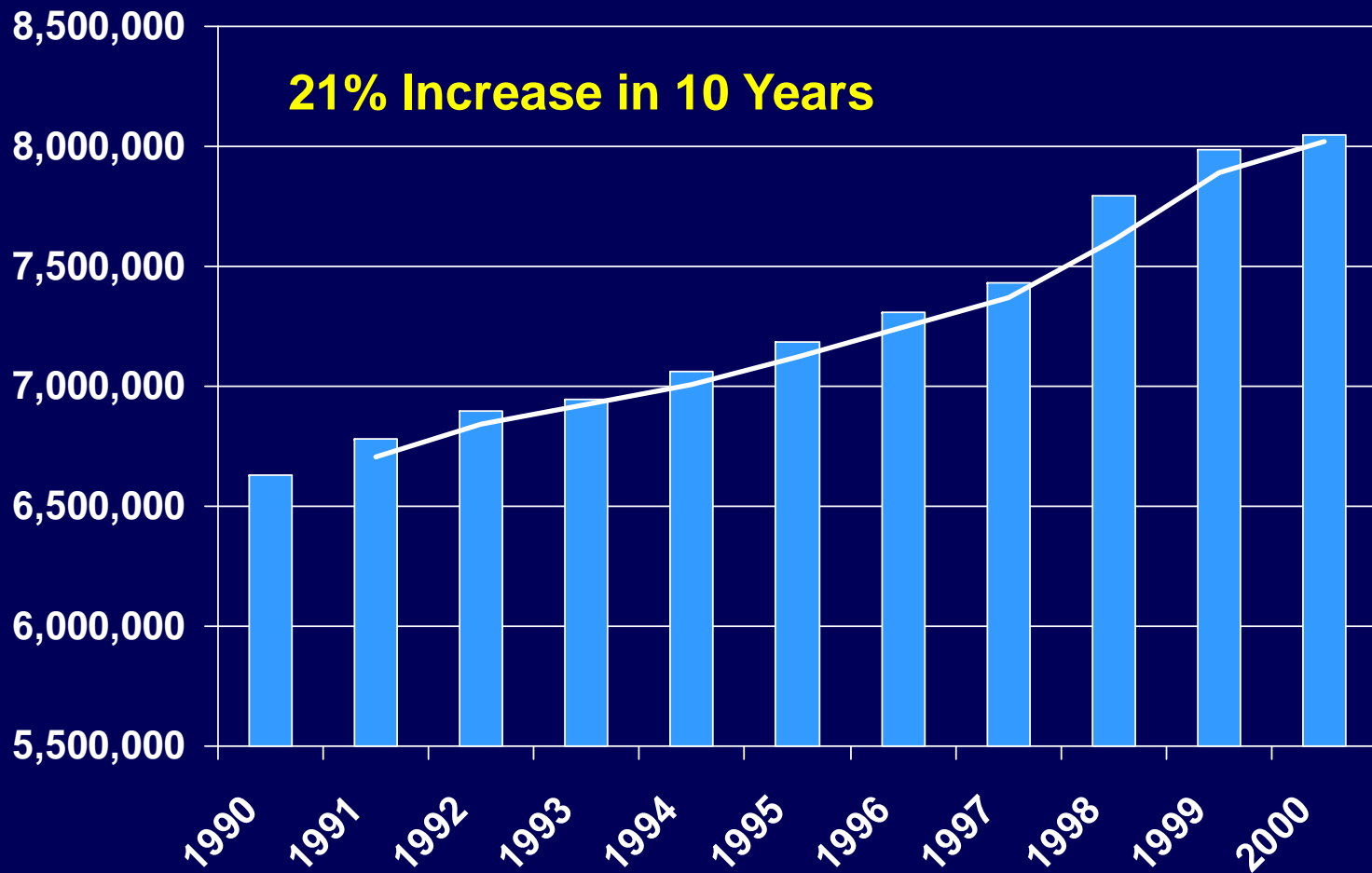
If current trends continue over the next ten (10) years, the number of motorist on North Carolina Highways that will be killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash will be equivalent to every man, woman and child in the **22** counties indicated in red on the above map.



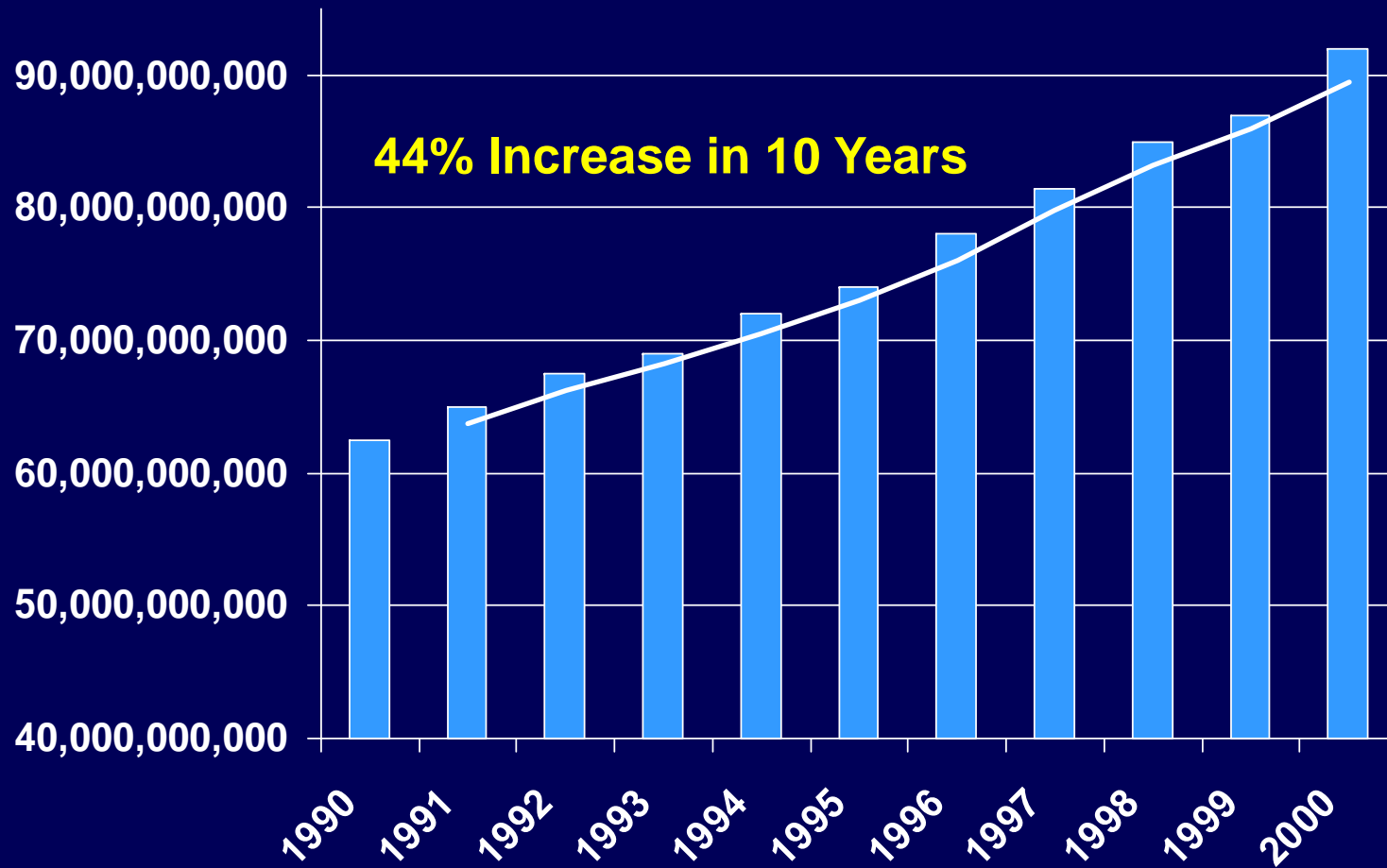
# N.C. Crash Clock



# N.C. Population Growth



# N.C. Vehicle Miles Traveled



# The Need for an Executive Committee for Highway Safety



# Why Have an Executive Committee for Highway Safety

- IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!
- IT IS NEEDED
- The number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on our highways continues to increase
- Vehicle miles traveled are greatly exceeding lane mile growth, facility capacity and maintenance capabilities



# Why Have an Executive Committee for Highway Safety

- Highway safety for the traveling public, our highway workers, emergency responders and law enforcement personnel is a **top** priority for NCDOT
- Coordinate all highway safety efforts and initiatives to maximize potential benefits from limited resources





# Coordinated Safety Approach

- We have made major strides and enhancements in the area of highway Safety within N.C.
- Impossible to prevent all traffic crashes and related fatalities and injuries
- Time to adopt and enact a comprehensive highway safety plan that identifies current highway safety issues and facilitates appropriate strategies for alleviating the identified problems



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

## ■ Mission Statement

- Develop and coordinate an internal commitment within the North Carolina Department of Transportation by which to establish and execute programs on a continual basis that will promote the success of North Carolina's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) while fostering partnerships with external agencies in support of the NC SHSP

## ■ Vision Statement

- To assist North Carolina's highway safety officials, policy-makers and citizens in implementing programs to improve highway safety, thereby substantially reducing deaths, injuries and economic losses due to traffic crashes on North Carolina's highways



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

## ■ Strategies

- Formally adopt a Strategic Highway Safety Plan for North Carolina
- Identify organizations for participation in North Carolina's SHSP
- Define roles and functions of the participating organizations
- Develop the SHSP process including implementation and management activities
- Establish deliverables including time frames and schedules
- Optimize limited resources for the SHSP



# ***Executive Committee for Highway Safety Potential Members***

**Gene Conti (Chair)**

*NCDOT - Chief Deputy Secretary*

**Len Sanderson, P.E.**

*NCDOT - State Highway Administrator*

**Len Hill, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Deputy Highway Administrator-Preconstruction*

**Don Goins, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Chief Engineer - Operations*

**Troy Peoples, P.E.**

*NCDOT - State Traffic Engineer*

**Nick Graf, P.E.**

*FHWA - Division Administrator*

**Doug Robertson, Ph.D., P.E.**

*UNC Highway Safety Research Center*

**Jim Long**

*Commissioner of Insurance*

**Calvin Leggett, P.E.**

*NCDOT - Manager Program Development Branch*

**David King**

*NCDOT - Deputy Secretary for Transit*

**Carol Howard**

*NCDOT - Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner*

**Janet D'Ignazio**

*NCDOT - Chief Planning & Environmental Officer*

**Kevin Lacy, P.E., CPM**

*NCDOT - Traffic Safety Systems Engineer*

**Don Nail**

*NCDOT - Governor's Highway Safety Program*

**Colonel Richard Holden**

*NC State Highway Patrol*

**J. Douglas Galyon**

*NCDOT - Chairman, Board of Transportation*

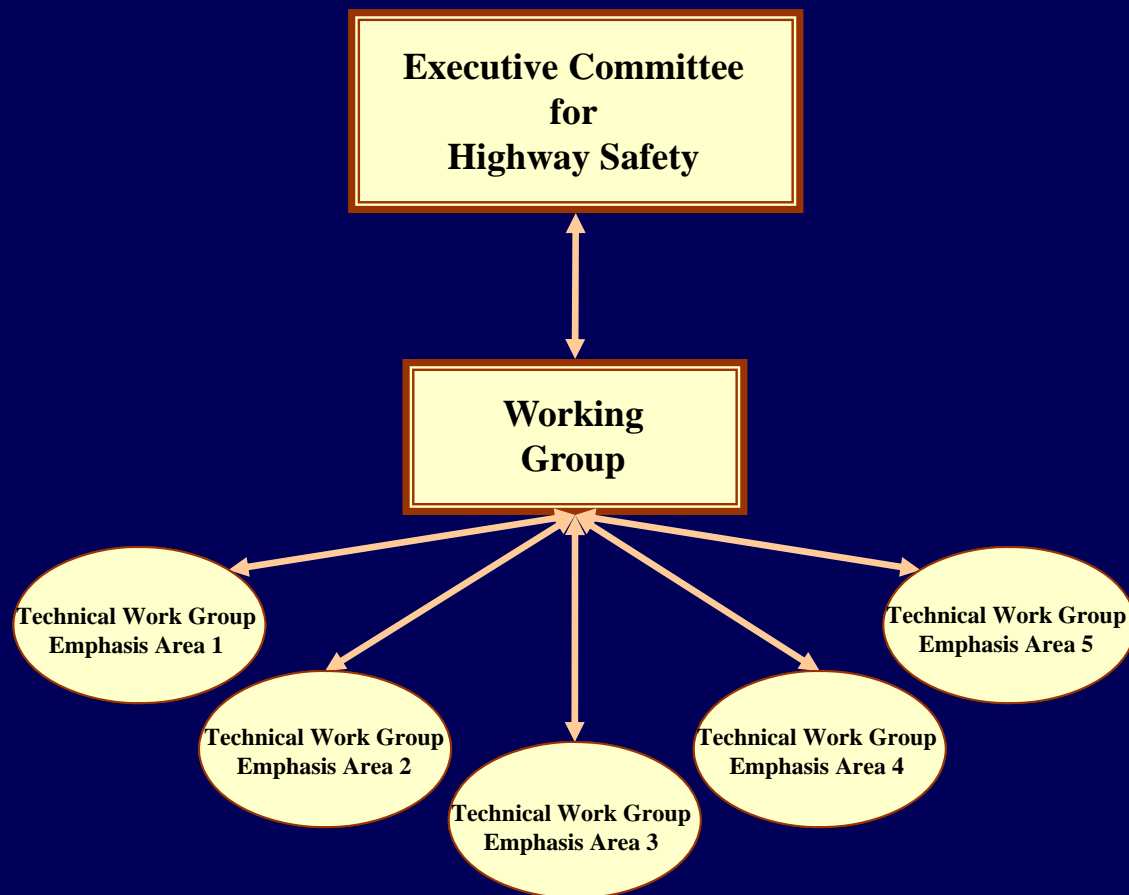
**Local Law Enforcement Representative**

**Local Transportation Official**

**Emergency Room or Medical Professional**



# *Proposed Organizational Structure*



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

## *Anticipated Committee Duties*

- Executive Committee for Highway Safety
  - Should be comprised of representatives from top management of selected disciplines involved in highway safety who control the current and potentially available resources for utilization in safety efforts
  - Responsible for the overall direction and administration of all SHSP activities
  - Responsible for defining high priority issues
  - Coordinate the Department's many safety efforts with an emphasis on efficiency of resources and the prioritization of programs
  - Identify, prioritize, promote and support all emphasis areas in the AASHTO Plan as well as emphasis areas not included in the AASHTO Plan for the coordinated NCDOT highway safety effort to save lives and reduce injuries



# *Anticipated Committee Duties*

## ■ Executive Committee for Highway Safety

- Review and approve all actions submitted by the Working Group and the Technical Work Groups and appropriate funds for implementation
- Establish statewide highway safety goals and objectives
- Review proposed highway safety legislation
- Monitor and manage the operations of North Carolina's Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- Collect, analyze, and distribute information related to highway safety
- Establish innovative highway safety programs and activities
- Create mechanisms to foster multidisciplinary flows of communication





# *Anticipated Committee Duties*

## ■ Working Group

- Establish ad-hoc subcommittees to address specific issues
- Analyze information developed by the subcommittees
- Responsible for all other aspects as related to the overall structure, direction and implementation of North Carolina's SHSP under the direction of the Executive Committee
- Develop a consensus on the NC SHSP and initialize the development and enactment of a memorandum of understanding between the various agencies
- Monitor the progress of the Technical Work Groups
- Hear presentations on inter-agency highway safety concerns from the Technical Work Groups
- Evaluate and prioritize arising issues and concerns for submission to the Executive Committee
- Identify appropriate personnel from each agency or group to establish the baseline representation of each Technical Work Group.



# *Anticipated Committee Duties*

## ■ Technical Work Groups

- Technical work group should consist of representatives from state, federal and local agencies as well as selected interest groups
- Most of the actual work, in terms of the NC SHSP will be conducted within technical work groups
- Each selected key emphasis areas will be assigned to a different Technical Work Group comprised of individuals with the appropriate expertise for the selected emphasis area
- Participants within these work groups will be defining safety issues and proposing solutions to these issues for the key emphasis areas that have been assigned to them. This will include developing strategies and programs to address the pertinent issues within the assigned emphasis area
- The issues and proposed solutions will be submitted to the Working Group for review and approval prior to being sent to the Executive Committee for final approval and implementation



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

## *Upcoming Milestones*

- Letter of invitation to potential Executive Committee for Highway Safety members
- Formal Adoption of the NCSHP by the NCDOT Board of Transportation
- First Executive Committee Meeting



# North Carolina's Executive Committee for Highway Safety

## *Upcoming Milestones*

- Establish short and long term priorities and goals
- Develop SHSP process
- Identification of Working Group members



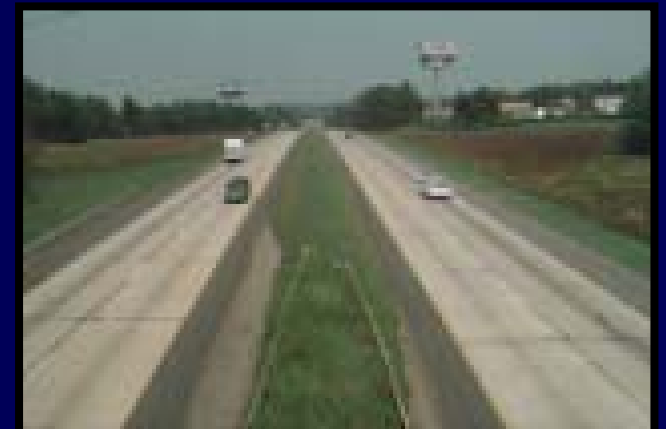
# North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan



# AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan

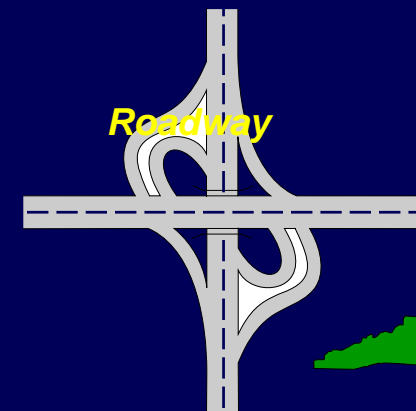
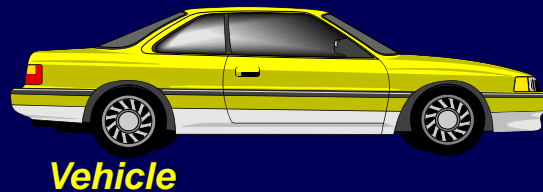
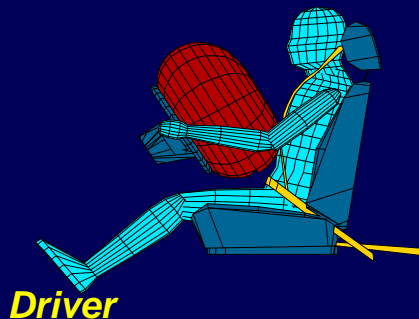


**A Comprehensive Plan to  
Substantially Reduce  
Vehicle-Related Fatalities and  
Injuries on the Nation's Highways**



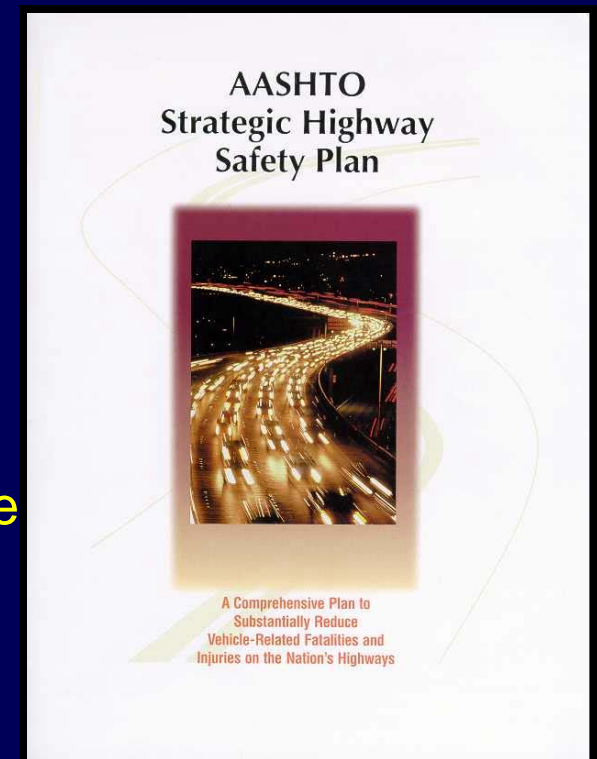
# AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan

- In 1997 the AASHTO Standing Committee for Highway Traffic Safety along with the FHWA and NHTSA assembled a group of experts in *driver*, *vehicle* and *highway* issues
  - Purpose of group was to develop a strategic plan that would positively impact the nation's present and predicted statistics on vehicle related deaths and injuries
  - The end result was the *AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)*



# AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan

- Plan focuses on 22 key emphasis areas
  - Emphasis areas divided into six major categories
    - Drivers
    - Special Users
    - Vehicles
    - Highways
    - Emergency Medical Services
    - Management
  - Contains strategies designed to improve each area's major problem areas or to advance practices by means that are both cost-effective and acceptable to a significant majority of Americans





# AASHTO

## *Strategic Highway Safety Plan*

### Key Emphasis Areas

#### **Part 1: Drivers**

1. Instituting Graduated Licensing for Young Drivers
2. Ensuring Drivers are Licensed and Fully Competent
3. Sustaining Proficiency in Older Drivers
4. Curbing Aggressive Driving
5. Reducing Impaired Driving
6. Keeping Drivers Alert
7. Increasing Driver Safety Awareness
8. Increasing Seat Belt Usage and Improving Airbag Effectiveness

#### **Part 2: Special Users**

9. Making Walking and Street Crossing Easier
10. Ensuring Safer Bicycle Travel

#### **Part 3: Vehicles**

11. Improving Motorcycle Safety and Increasing Motorcycle Awareness
12. Making Truck Travel Safer
13. Increasing Safety Enhancements in Vehicles

#### **Part 4: Highways**

14. Reducing Vehicle-Train Crashes
15. Keeping Vehicles on the Roadway
16. Minimizing the Consequences of Leaving the Road
17. Improving the Design and Operation of Highway Intersections
18. Reducing Head-On and Across Median Crashes
19. Designing Safer Work Zones

#### **Part 5: Emergency Medical Services**

20. Enhancing Emergency Medical Capabilities to Increase Survivability

#### **Part 6: Management**

21. Improving Information and Decision Support Systems
22. Creating More Effective Processes and Safety Management Systems



# AASHTO

## Strategic Highway Safety Plan

- Adoption of the AASHTO SHSP
  - With a few exceptions, all of the key emphasis areas of the AASHTO plan are directly applicable to NC's composite crash picture
  - Additional emphasis areas may be included as needed to address specific issues not covered in the AASHTO plan
  - Since the AASHTO plan and NC's data mesh so closely, it is recommended that NCDOT adopt the AASHTO plan and make modifications as needed



Questions?

