

Setting Regional Safety Targets For 2026

*In coordination with FHWA
and MassDOT*



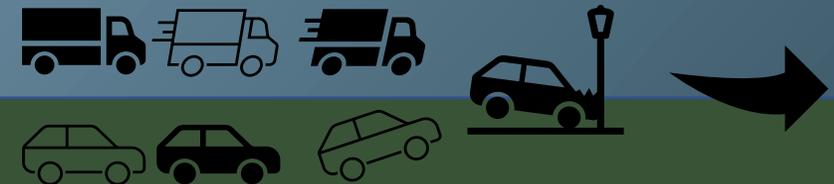
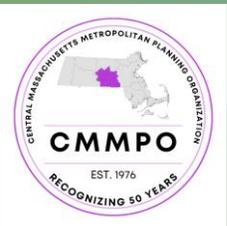
Background

- Required under MAP-21 (Section 1203), continued with **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**
- Requires annual coordination of target setting with MPOs:
 - MPOs establish their own set of quantifiable performance targets every year, or
 - MPOs adopt State's performance targets (for the entire Commonwealth – no quantifiable target required for region)
- Either way, MPOs must set targets, and incorporate them into Certification Documents



A Few Things to Note

- MassDOT overarching goal is towards zero deaths.
- The Performance Measures are presented in 5-year rolling averages and the trendline has been established using historical data.
- MassDOT also developed a 2024-2028 projection to forecast current trends further into the future.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires “performance targets to demonstrate constant or improved performance.”



MassDOT Targets 2026

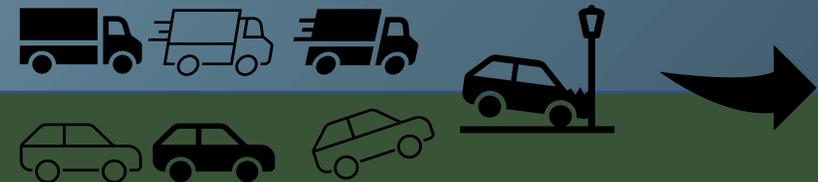
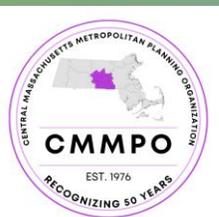
For CY26, the 5 statewide safety targets are:

- Total fatalities: **357**
- Fatality rate per 100 million VMT: **0.56**
- Total Serious Injuries: **2,562**
- Serious Injury rate: **4.03** per 100 million VMT
- Total Combined Non-Motorist Injuries + Fatalities: **512**



Fatalities Methodology

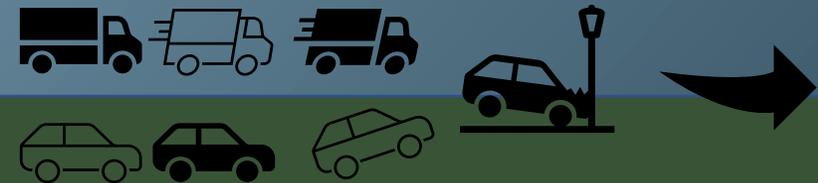
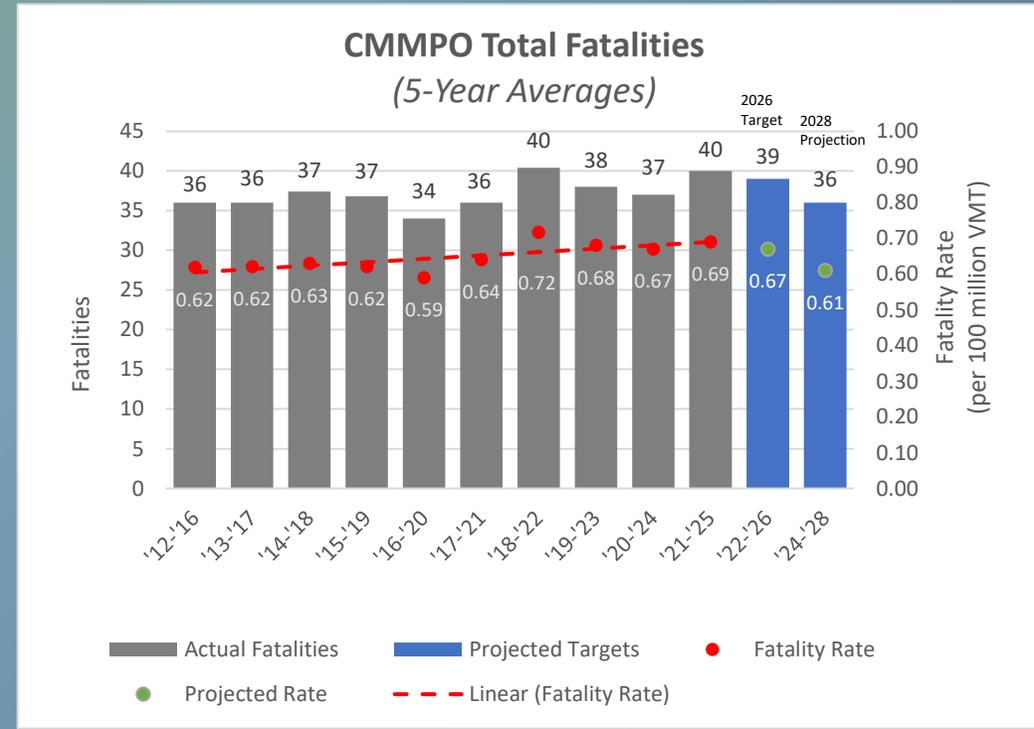
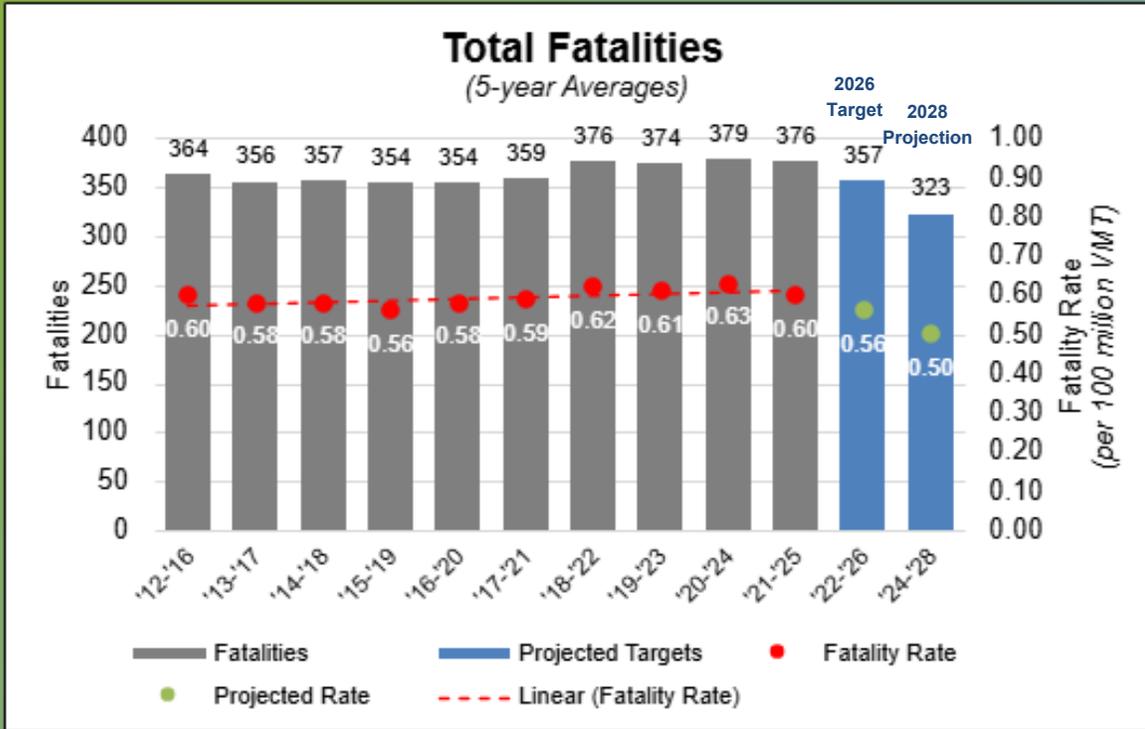
- **CY 2026** target setting began with a trendline projection based on most recent available data.
- **2025** fatalities were estimated by comparing data from **2015-2024** to the data available at the time of target setting in July 2025. On average, **46%** of annual fatalities occurred between Jan 1 – July 1 of each year. Therefore, to estimate **2025** fatalities, MassDOT divided the number to date by **55%**.
- A **3%** annual reduction in fatalities was then presumed to obtain an estimate for **2026**, which the 2022-2026 5-year average is **357**. If a **3%** annual decrease continues the **2024-2028** 5-year average would be **323**.
- **Fatality Rate:** VMT in Massachusetts is returning to pre-pandemic levels and projections for **2025** are nearly in line with **2019**. The 5-year average fatality rate is estimated to be **0.56** for **2022-2026** and if the trend continues, MassDOT projects a decrease to **0.50** for **2024-2028**.



Total Fatalities and Fatality Rates

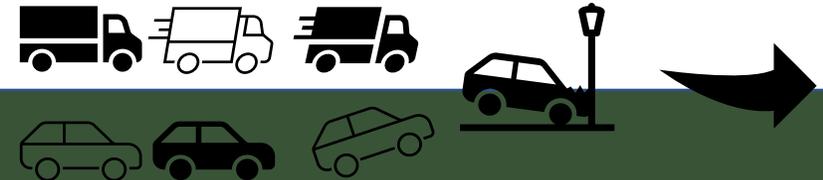
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Serious Injuries Methodology

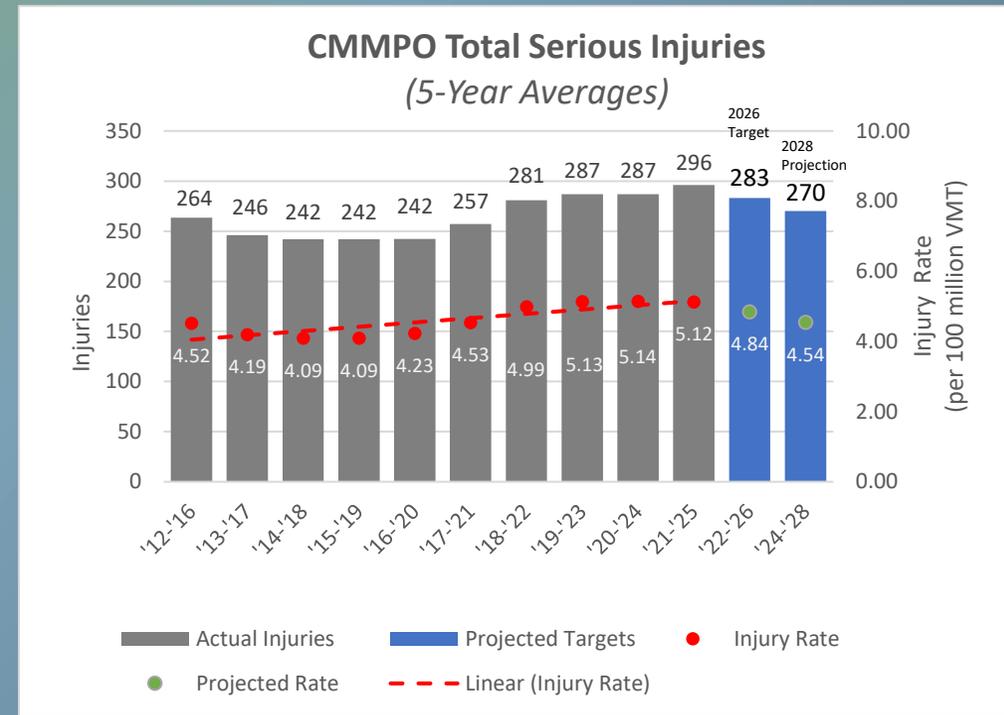
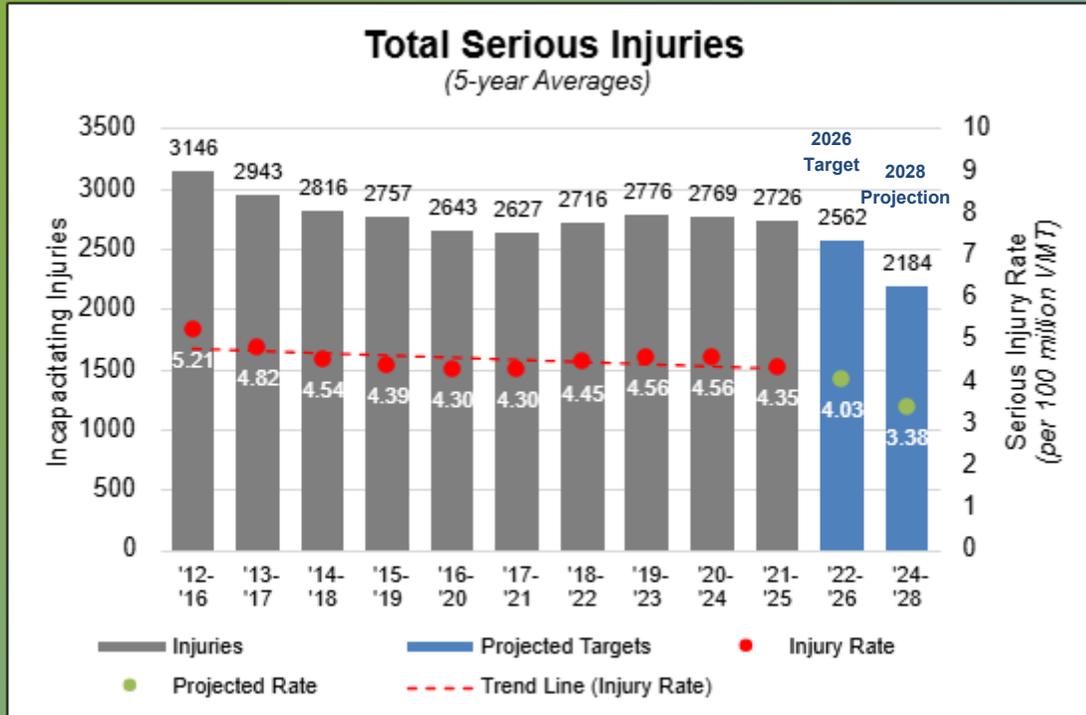
- **CY 2026** target setting process began with a trend line projection based on the most recent available data.
- To estimate **2025** serious injuries, MassDOT compared data from **2015-2024** to the data available at the time of target setting in July 2025. On average, **46%** of annual serious injuries occurred between Jan 1 – July 1 of each year. Therefore, to estimate **2025** serious injuries, MassDOT divided the number to date by **46%**.
- A **3%** annual reduction in serious injuries was then presumed to obtain an estimate for **2026**, which the **2022-2026** 5-year average is **2,562**. If a **3%** annual decrease continues the **2024-2028** 5-year average would be **2,184**.
- **Serious Injuries Rate:** Similar to the fatality rate, the rate of serious injuries is trending toward pre-pandemic levels. Following the same methods to derive the fatality rate, the **2022-2026** 5-year average serious injury rate is estimated to be **4.03** and if the trend continues MassDOT projects a decrease to **3.38** for **2024-2028**.



Total Serious Injuries and Injury Rate

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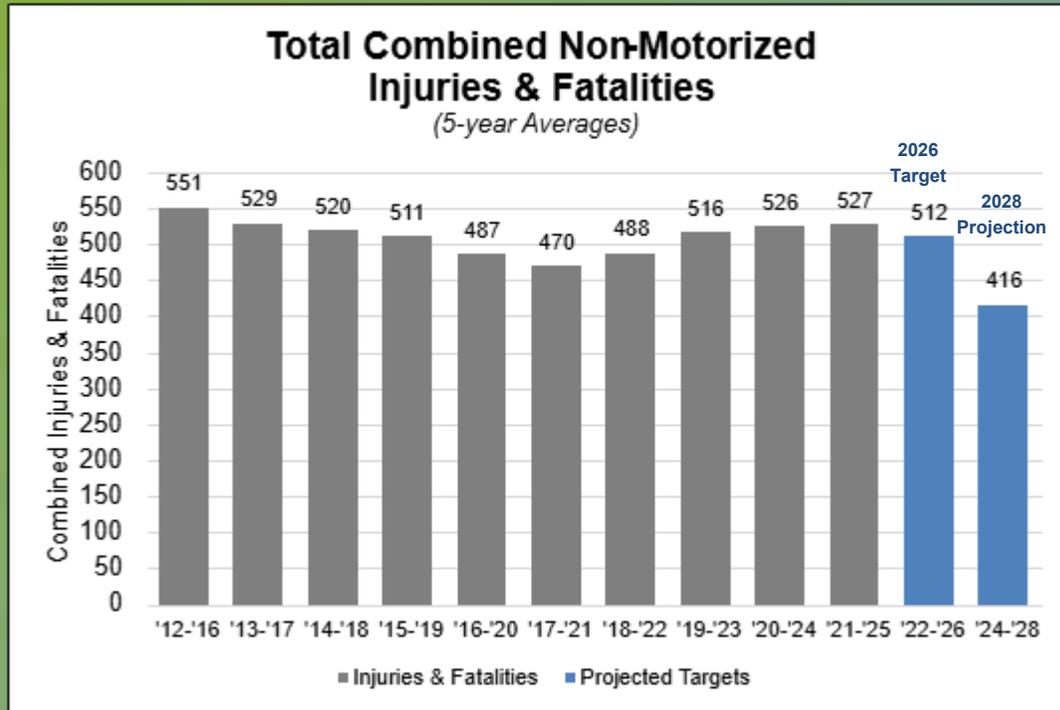
Total Combined Non-Motorized Injuries & Fatalities Methodology

- The number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries has fluctuated greatly in recent years. Non-motorist fatalities increased through **2022** before decreasing in **2023**, increasing in **2024**, and decreasing in **2025**. Non-motorist serious injuries appear to have peaked in **2023** and show signs of decreasing in **2024** and **2025**.
- On average, **45%** of annual non-motorist fatalities & serious injuries occur between Jan 1 – July 1. Therefore, to estimate **2025** fatalities & serious injuries, MassDOT divided the number to date by **45%**.
- Based on the state's increased work and emphasis to protect vulnerable road users, a **5%** annual reduction in non-motorized fatalities & serious injuries was assumed to obtain an estimate for **2026**.
- This results in a 5-year rolling average of non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries of **512** for **2022-2026**.
- If this **5%** annual decrease continues, MassDOT projects the **2024-2028** 5-year average to be **416**.

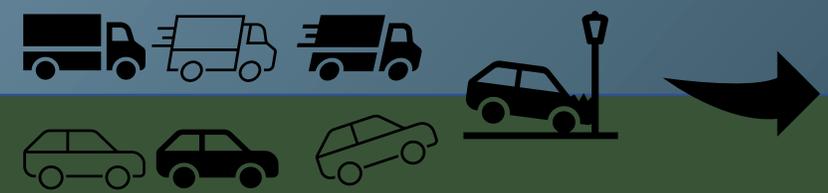
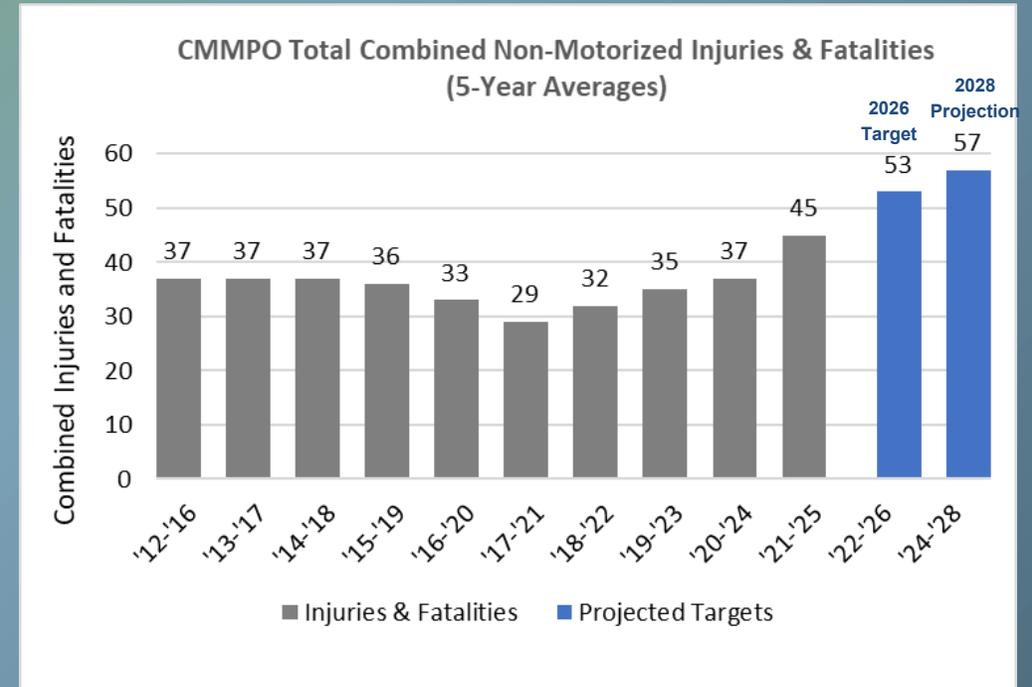


Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Injuries

MassDOT



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Notes and Next Steps

- Although MassDOT emphasizes that the state’s goal is zero fatalities and serious injuries, the state targets presented here are not “goals” but realistic targets considering the events of the last 4+ years. The Secretary of Transportation and Highway Division Administrator for MassDOT approved the targets recognizing that MassDOT must demonstrate short term incremental steps in order to achieve the Commonwealth’s goal.
- **MPOs must either set their own 5 quantifiable safety targets or adopt MassDOT’s targets as an action item by February 28, 2026.**
- **The safety targets must be included in the FFY 2027-2031 TIPs.**

