

# Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Strategic Plan July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

**Submitted to:**

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The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force is a group of diverse individuals comprised of concerned citizens, law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, prevention specialists, counselors, and area business representatives appointed by the County Commissioners with the mission of promoting a healthier and safer environment for county residents by attempting to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents through public education, awareness, legislation, and enforcement strategies.

**Prepared by:**

Yellowstone County DUI Task Force  
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Approved:

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\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

## Drinking and Driving in Yellowstone County

- Percent of Crashes by County that were Impaired Driver Involved in 2014<sup>1</sup>:
  - Yellowstone County: 9.93%**
  - Missoula County: 8.60%
  - Gallatin County: 11.36%
  - Flathead County: 11.23%
  - Cascade County: 7.20%
- Number of Impaired Driver Involved Crashes in 2014:
  - Montana: 2108
  - Yellowstone County: 357**
  - Missoula: 222
  - Gallatin County: 192
  - Flathead County: 234
  - Cascade County: 146
- Number of Impaired Driver Involved Fatalities in 2014:
  - Montana: 117
  - Yellowstone County: 11 (68.75% of fatal crashes in Yellowstone)**
  - Missoula County: 11 (84.61% of fatal crashes in Missoula)
  - Gallatin County: 5 (55.55% of fatal crashes in Gallatin)
  - Flathead County: 6 (50% of fatal crashes in Flathead)
  - Cascade County: 11 (73.33% of Fatal Crashes in Cascade)
- Number of Impaired Driver Involved Serious Injury Crashes (not including fatal crashes) in 2014:
  - Montana: 329
  - Yellowstone: 25 (28.74% of serious injury crashes in Yellowstone)**
  - Missoula County: 7 (7.07% of serious injury crashes in Missoula)
  - Gallatin County: 17 (17.17% of serious injury crashes in Gallatin)
  - Flathead County: 31 (32.29% of serious injury crashes in Flathead)
  - Cascade County: 7 (26.92% of serious injury crashes in Cascade)
- Yellowstone County Population in 2014 (Est.): 155,634  
State of Montana Population 2014 (Est.): 1,023,579
- DUIs Per 1000 Citizens in 2009:
  - Yellowstone County: 6
  - Yellowstone County excluding Billings and Laurel: 6

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<sup>1</sup> Based upon most recent crash data available from Montana Department of Transportation, online at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml>. May 19, 2016.

Laurel: 12

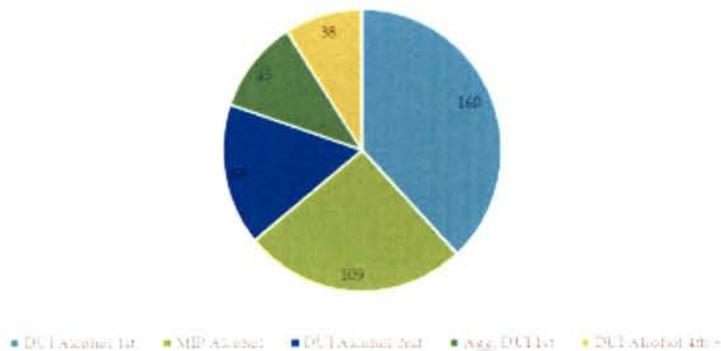
Billings: 5

- Percent of Yellowstone County Youth who Drove after Drinking in Past 30 days  
12<sup>th</sup> graders: 2008=27.1% 2010=15.7%
- Percent of Yellowstone County Youth Who Rode in a Vehicle Driven by Someone  
Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol:  
12<sup>th</sup> graders: 2008=36.3% 2010=25.8%

## DUI Related Offense Statistics for Yellowstone County<sup>2</sup>

### Top 5 DUI Arrest Charges Yellowstone County 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015

Number of Arrests Per Charge



### Top 10 DUI-Related Charges 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015

- 1. DUI Alcohol 1<sup>st</sup> 160
- 2. MIP Alcohol 109
- 3. DUI Alcohol 2<sup>nd</sup> 68
- 4. Aggravated DUI Alcohol 1<sup>st</sup> 45
- 5. DUI Alcohol 4<sup>th</sup> or Subsequent 38
- 6. DUI Alcohol 3<sup>rd</sup> 30
- 7. DUI Any Drug 1<sup>st</sup> 27
- 8. Open Container 23
- 9. Aggravated DUI Alcohol 2<sup>nd</sup> 20
- 10. Criminal Endangerment-Felony 19

<sup>2</sup> The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force, in partnership with local law enforcement agencies began tracking DUI Arrest statistics beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2015. This effort will continue.

## DUI Related Offense Statistics for Yellowstone County, cont.

### Leading DUI Charges per Law Enforcement Agency (LEA)

- Total Number of DUI-Related Arrests  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015  
N=605

	#1 DUI Charge	#2 DUI Charge	#3 DUI Charge
YCSO	DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup> (64)	DUI Alcohol 2 <sup>nd</sup> (34)	(Tie) MIP Alcohol & Criminal Endangerment -Felony (19)
MHP	DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup> (30)	Open Container (23)	MIP Alcohol (14)
BPD	DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup> (51)	Agg. DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup> (32)	Agg. DUI Alcohol 2 <sup>nd</sup> (19)
LPD	MIP Alcohol (76)	DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup> (15)	DUI Alcohol 2 <sup>nd</sup> (11)

### Common Issues Across the Board:

- Each LEA had at least 1 arrest for the following charges:

Charge	Total Number
DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup>	160
DUI Alcohol 2 <sup>nd</sup>	68
Aggravated DUI Alcohol 1 <sup>st</sup>	45
DUI Alcohol 4 <sup>th</sup> or subsequent	38
DUI Alcohol 3 <sup>rd</sup>	30
DUI Any Drug 1 <sup>st</sup>	27

## Accomplishments of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force 2015-2016

### Project

- Increase number and frequency of DUI patrols, shoulder taps, social host, and keggar patrols  
**How:** Provide funding for increased overtime DUI shifts; Partner with Yellowstone County Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (MJAET)
- Increase efficiency and efficacy of law enforcement DUI prevention and enforcement efforts  
**How:** Provide funding to replace outdated equipment, (e.g. PBT instruments and digital cameras) and training (recertification of DRE and Senior Operators)
- Increase frequency and thoroughness of supervision of Felony DUI offenders  
**How:** Fund overtime patrols for Probation and Parole
- Support alcohol-free activities for youth  
**How:** Fund alcohol-free high school graduation parties
- Support Youth intervention strategies  
**How:** Partner with MSU-B HEROES to provide education materials to students and parents about underage drinking, responsible drinking, and provide funding for a social-norming campaign
- Increase public awareness of DUI prevention and enforcement efforts in Yellowstone County  
**How:** Media Campaigns, visibility during popular community events
- Angel Tree and Award of Merit Ceremony  
**How:** Honor victims and law enforcement
  - See attached Billings Gazette articles
- Support for alternative transportation programs  
**How:** Fund Yellowstone County's Tavern Taxi program

### Why it was a success

- Enforcement of DUI laws;  
Prevention of underage drinking; Reduce availability of alcohol
- Enforcement of DUI laws;  
More officers available to apprehend impaired drivers (with a focus on repeat offenders) in Yellowstone Co.
- Enforcement of DUI laws;  
Detection and arrest of parole and probation violations
- Positively change the environment; Change norms
- Educate young-adults about proper assessment of high-risk behavior
- Address acceptance of DUI;  
Warn public of DUI cost;  
Provide awareness of DUI Task Force and our activities
- Awareness of DUI issue;  
Publication of recent success;
- Keep impaired drivers off roads

## Accomplishments of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force 2015-2016, cont.

### Project

- Active partnership with the Department of Transportation in support of the Vision Zero initiative  
**How:** Participation in Laurel overpass dedication
- Spread Task Force Message through Social Media  
**How:** Creation of DUI Task Force Facebook Page
- Increase DUI Task Force's visibility in Local High Schools  
**How:** Partnered with Student Resource Officers to distribute literature on the dangers of impaired driving
- Support local treatment courts in their efforts to provide wrap-around services for individuals struggling with addiction and criminal-thinking errors.  
**How:** Provided funding for STEER Court Coordinator to attend national training conference

### Why it was a success

Publication of efforts to make MT roads safer and spread message that no level of fatality is inevitable or acceptable

Page reaches several hundred individuals weekly raising awareness of DUI-related issues

Raised awareness among young drivers of the dangers of drinking and driving

Increased effectiveness of local treatment court by supporting ongoing training of treatment court personnel

## Summary of Activities/Programs Funded by DUI Task Force RFP Process

July 1, 2015-December 31, 2016

**1. Billings Police Department**

Provided funding for 16 shifts/106 hours of additional DUI Patrol yielding 12 DUI arrests, 31 non-moving violations, 11 municipal infractions, 89 warnings, 10 criminal charges, 5 served warrants, and 1 DRE evaluation agency assist.

**2. Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office**

Provided funding assistance to purchased one Portable Breath Test (PBT) instrument to replace outdated equipment and three digital cameras for on-scene crash documentation.

**3. MSU-Billings Health Educators Reaching Others & Encouraging Success (HEROES)**

Promotion of the Jacket Cab, which provides to free rides to students in need  
Travel expenses for HEROES student leaders to attend BACCHUS General Assembly  
Social-norming campaign addressing the perception of high-risk behavior among students.

**4. Probation and Parole**

Provided funding for additional probation checks of DUI offenders  
18 extra shifts resulting in additional 136 home visits  
4 found in violation – alcohol – and held accountable.

**5. Montana Highway Patrol**

Provided funding for additional 26.5 hours of additional DUI Patrol yielding 4 DUI arrests, 25 other citations, and 33 warnings over 5 shifts.

**6. Willson, LLC**

278 Tavern Taxi vouchers purchased which were matched by Yellowstone County Tavern Association.

**7. Yellowstone County Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (MJAET)**

Provided funding for patrols at four separate community events to conduct 28 alcohol compliance checks and underage drinking interdiction yielding 31 citations (MIPs, Contributing to a Minor, three fake IDs confiscated).

## Summary of Activities/Programs Funded by DUI Task Force RFP Process

January 1, 2016-June 30, 2016

### *Summary of Projects in Progress*

**1. Montana Probation and Patrol**

Provided funding to support additional overtime shifts to conduct felony DUI Offender compliance monitoring.

**2. Montana Highway Patrol**

Provided funding for overtime DUI patrols.

**3. Billings Police Department**

Provided funding to purchase Portable Breath Test Instruments to replace outdated and nonfunctional equipment and to conduct overtime DUI patrol.

**4. Laurel Police Department**

Provided funding for purchase of Portable Breath Test Instruments to replace outdated and nonfunctional equipment and to conduct overtime DUI patrols.

**5. Yellowstone County Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (MJAET)**

Provided funding to support underage drinking patrols, compliance checks and shoulder taps.

**6. Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office**

Provided funding to purchase Portable Breath Test Instruments to replace outdated and nonfunctional equipment and to send officers to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy for continuing education.

**7. Willson, LLC**

Provided funding to support Yellowstone County's Tavern Taxi Program.

**Planned intervention activities for 2016-2017 are listed in the table below.**

Problem	Intervention Activity	RFPs and Projects to address issue
<p>1. Availability and community acceptance of drugs, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement media campaign at community events where significant drinking is expected, and local movie theaters targeting responsible drinking, along with promotion of alternative transportation such as Designated Driver program, Tavern Taxi, Jacket Cab.</li>   <li>• Continue social media presence through the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Facebook page to publicize efforts and provide educational materials to public regarding enforcement and prevention.</li>   <li>• Support alcohol-free alternative activities such as Graduation parties, Drug Court client activities, March Against Drugs and Violence</li>   <li>• Seasonal Ad campaigns targeted during “drinking” holidays such as St. Patrick’s Day, Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend and New Years Eve</li>   <li>• Conduct Angel Tree and Award of Merit Ceremony to honor victims and law enforcement officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with a local advertising agency to create a “They’ll See You Before You See Them” campaign; different messages for different target populations will be explored</li>   <li>• Continue to support alternative transportation through RFP process</li>   <li>• Utilization of social media to educate, advocate, and influence action on DUI issues.</li>   <li>• Continue to support alternative activities through RFP process</li>   <li>• Continue ad campaigns, including Labor Day, Holiday, Memorial Day/Graduation utilizing television, radio and print</li>   <li>• Continue to conduct Angel Tree/Award of Merit ceremony in December</li> </ul>

<p>1. Availability and community acceptance of drugs, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner to: 1) Ensure Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service Training for all vendors in Yellowstone County; 2) Ensure compliance checks take place and compliant vendors are recognized.</li> <li>• Community 7 DUI Task Force show which highlights issues in drinking and driving and spotlights community members who work in prevention and enforcement</li> <li>• Support alternative forms of transportation to prevent impaired driving</li> <li>• Support peer to peer social-norming campaigns targeting the misconception of the acceptance of high-risk behavior in young adults</li> <li>• Support informational campaign demonstrating dangers of underage drinking and drinking and driving during high school</li> <li>• Monitor prescription drug abuse and local practices by medical providers and law enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue partnerships with Yellowstone County Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (MJAET) for RASS Trainings, compliance checks, and Crowd Party Patrols, shoulder taps and overtime shifts</li> <li>• Continue to fund the community access television programming and look for new dynamic guests to interview</li> <li>• Explore support for innovative alternative transportation such as Uber</li> <li>• Continue to support MSU-B HEROES in their social norming campaigns and reach out to similarly organized student group(s) at Rocky Mountain College and support the March Against Drug and Violence</li> <li>• Support funding for campaign distributing literature through florists providing Prom and other formal bouquets and boutonnières</li> <li>• Explore partnerships with local prevention and law enforcement agencies to conduct prescription drug</li> </ul>
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		take back events
<p>2. Higher rates of underage and adult drinking, as well as addiction when compared to the rest of the nation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support programs which decrease youth access to drugs and alcohol, such as prescription drug take back programs, and high visibility alcohol enforcement</li> <li>• Explore partnerships with the Yellowstone County Consortium for Safe and Drug Free Schools, Billings/Yellowstone County Drug Prevention Planning Committee, , and the MJAET to implement a program for early identification of and intervention for children at high risk of becoming future DUI offenders</li> <li>• Continued high visibility law enforcement such as party patrols, shoulder taps, and social host enforcement</li> <li>• Provide support to families struggling with substance abuse and develop program for early intervention of children at high risk of substance abuse or future DUI</li> <li>• Support peer to peer social-norming campaigns targeting the misconception of the acceptance of high-risk behavior in young adults</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore partnership with Montana Crime Prevention Coalition, Billings/Yellowstone County Drug Prevention Planning Committee and Yellowstone County Consortium for Safe and Drug Free Schools</li> <li>• Continued partnership with United Way and MJAET for the “Be Your Own Bouncer” or other similar campaigns during public events such as the Alive After 5 music programs and PRA events</li> <li>• Continue to fund MJAET’s efforts to conduct highly visible crowd party patrol</li> <li>• Provide funding through RFP process for DUI courts and Family Drug Court</li> <li>• Continue to support MSU-B HEROES in their social norming campaigns and reach out to similarly organized student group(s) at Rocky</li> </ul>

<p>3. Enforcement and prosecution of DUIs and other drug and alcohol-related offenses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate partnerships between youth and adults in preventing underage drinking and high-risk behavior</li>   <li>• Continue to dialogue with legislators regarding the limitations of current laws, and potential ways to strengthen laws</li>   <li>• Support law enforcement through training, funding for overtime DUI patrols and other high visibility law enforcement, state of the art equipment</li>   <li>• Support national study conducted by RAND on the effectiveness of the 24/7 program</li>   <li>• Support 24/7 project and warrants to obtain blood or breath test in DUI cases</li> </ul>	<p>Mountain College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite members of college groups to attend monthly meetings of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force and invite a student representative to sit as a full voting member of the Task Force</li>   <li>• Reach out to local legislators and invite each to attend either a monthly meeting or attend public events</li>   <li>• Support law enforcement training through RFP process</li>   <li>• Support funding for OT patrols through RFP process</li>   <li>• Support purchase of state of the art equipment through RFP process</li>   <li>• Explore the possibility of DUI Safety Spot Checks</li>   <li>• Provide funding, equipment and/or volunteer to assist in 24/7 implementation and measurement of effectiveness</li>   <li>• Explore providing funding to supplement Yellowstone County 24/7 voucher program</li> </ul>
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<p>4. Lack of good data on effectiveness of PSAs and other prevention measures to deter severe imbibing and impaired driving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect data from dedicated sample of residents and track their experiences through 9 to 12 month period to measure habits and the effectiveness of PSAs, other yearly promotions of DUI prevention, or specific projects to reduce impaired driving in the community</li> <li>• Collect data on the medical costs of impaired driving</li> <li>• Continue collecting data from local agencies showing alcohol-related arrests and convictions over the last three years</li> <li>• Collect data on the effectiveness of different monitoring devices used within the 24/7 sobriety program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use “Ales for Trails” event to sign people up for participation in study over year of the effectiveness of DUI prevention techniques</li> <li>• Contact hospital administration, DOJ, and Insurance Commissioner’s Office to collect recent and persuasive data on the medical costs of impaired driving in Yellowstone County and then develop template for statewide implementation</li> <li>• Contact administrators from each law enforcement agency and court within Yellowstone County to collect pertinent data on DUI and other alcohol-related charges and convictions</li> <li>• Partnership/fund RAND Corporation’s Study on Effectiveness of Various Pre-trial Monitoring Techniques for Alcohol-Related Offenses</li> </ul>
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## EVALUATION

The purpose of evaluation is to: 1) measure progress towards goals; 2) ascertain whether a process or program is working, and to adjust activities accordingly. Evaluation results can also be used to promote the work of the task force in the community. Location specific projects will offer both positive and negative feedback to adopt and modify better policies before implementation on a countywide basis or further distribution across the state.

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force will evaluate three levels of outcomes: process outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and long term outcomes.

### PROCESS OUTCOMES

- DUI Task Force Coordinator will keep records of attendance at meetings and business conducted at task force meetings through minutes.
- Task Force will track process outcomes for activities such as:
  - # and demographics of people participating or impacted
  - # of ads run
  - Frequency of activities
  - Equipment purchased
  - Training facilitated
  - Funding leveraged
- Grantees will report process outcomes to the task force.

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Availability of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug decreases.

The Yellowstone County Multi-Jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (MJAET) will provide DUI Task Force with reports on youth perception of availability as measured through the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment (MPNA).

The following factors related to availability will be tracked: prices of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs; prevalence of medical marijuana caregivers, patients, and businesses; compliance check failure rates; social host violations; and prescription drug take back volume.

Community acceptance of problem drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug abuse decreases.

Yellowstone County MJAET will provide the DUI Task Force with youth perception on community acceptance of problem drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug abuse based on MPNA data.

Underage drinking and drug use decreased to levels that are on par with national average.

Yellowstone County MJAET will provide the DUI Task Force annually with a report on underage drinking and drug use in the country, including progress toward the risk factors identified here, such as availability and social acceptance, lack of parental monitoring, and lack of early warning system.

Measurement Tools: MPNA, Monitoring the Future, SAMHSA Office of Applied Statistics, Yellowstone County Parent Survey

Grantees will report intermediate outcomes to Task Force.

### **LONG TERM OUTCOMES**

Long term outcomes will be measured using Montana Department of Transportation reports and location specific data on any pilot projects implemented and monitored by members or representatives of the Task Force. Progress towards long term outcomes will be examined annually.

- By 2018 number of alcohol and drug related crashes in Yellowstone County are decreased from 357 (2014) to 200.
- By 2018 the percent of alcohol and drug related crash fatalities decreased from 9.93%<sup>3</sup> to 7%.

### **Submission of Strategic Plan:**

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force submits this Strategic Plan in accordance with statute and as requested by the Montana Department of Transportation. Attached to this plan is a spreadsheet that contains the proposed budget for 2016-2017 year.



Nicholas Owens, Chair, Yellowstone County DUI Task Force



Darla Tyler-McSherry, Coordinator, Yellowstone County DUI Task Force

<sup>3</sup> Based upon most recent crash data available from Montana Department of Transportation, online at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml>. May 19, 2016.

**Meeting Schedule**  
**Yellowstone County DUI Task Force**  
**FY 2016-2017**

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force meets the third Thursday of each month in the County Commissioners Board Room on the fourth floor of the Yellowstone County Courthouse. The meetings begin at noon. The exception to this is in the month of December we do not hold a regular business meeting but instead conduct the Angel Tree/Award of Merit Ceremony in the Courthouse Lobby.

**Meeting Dates FY 2016-2017:**

Thursday, July 21

Thursday, August 18

Thursday, September 15

Thursday, October 20

Thursday, November 17

Thursday, December 15 (Angel Tree/Award of Merit Ceremony)

Thursday, January 19

Thursday, February 16

Thursday, March 16

Thursday, April 20

Thursday, May 18

Thursday, June 15

**Meeting information is posted:**

Yellowstone County DUI Task Force website [www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/dui](http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/dui)

Billings Gazette Calendar website [www.billingsgazette.com/calendar](http://www.billingsgazette.com/calendar)

**June 2016**  
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## Yellowstone County DUI Task Force FY 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget

### DUI Fund - Expenditure Budget

Account	AMENDED FY15 BUDGET	FY15 ACTUAL	BUDGET FY16 ORIG	BUDGET FY16 AMEND	Through 3/31/16 FY16 ACTUAL	Requested FY17
<b>OPERATING</b>						
2950.000.470.420190.210	1,000	898	1,000	1,000	499	1,000
2950.000.470.420190.336	23,200	19,502	18,500	21,000	17,508	18,500
2950.000.470.420190.347	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,125	1,500
2950.000.470.420190.380			0	0	756	0
2950.000.470.420190.397	19,800	19,732	21,780	21,780	14,473	21,780
2950.000.470.420190.398	38,000	34,726	38,000	35,500	20,168	38,000
2950.000.470.420190.399						
2950.000.470.420190.530						
<b>OPERATING TOTAL</b>	<b>83,500</b>	<b>76,358</b>	<b>80,780</b>	<b>80,780</b>	<b>54,529</b>	<b>80,780</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
2950.000.470.420190.940						
<b>CAPITAL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>480</b>				-
<b>TRANSFERS</b>						
<b>TRANSFERS TOTAL</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>76,838</b>	<b>80,780</b>	<b>80,780</b>	<b>54,529</b>	<b>80,780</b>

## **Yellowstone County DUI Task Force in the Media**

## Help curb Montana's rising DUI toll

- Dec 17, 2015
- *Z*



- BOB ZELLAR/Gazette Staff

Gordon Bayman places an angel on the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Angel Tree on Thursday for his son Rodney Bayman who was killed by a drunken driver.

Another angel was placed on the memorial tree in the Yellowstone County Courthouse on Thursday. Friends and family remembered Rodney Lee "Grinder" Bayman, an innocent victim of DUI.

Bayman, 56, was killed on Aug. 22 while his motorcycle was stopped for a traffic light near MetraPark. A driver whose blood would later test at three times the legal intoxication level, slammed his sport utility pickup into the rear of Bayman's motorcycle. Witnesses told police that the Chevrolet Avalanche had already hit a planter and that other vehicles were swerving to avoid being hit. There were no skid marks

to indicate that the driver tried to slow down before or after striking the motorcycle.

A Billings native and Senior High graduate, Bayman was a welder whose survivors include two children, according to an obituary previously printed in The Gazette.

Travis Michael Deadmore, 34, already had two drunken driving convictions and has pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide for causing Bayman's death. He may get up to 30 years in prison.

Rodney Bayman was one of 71 people killed in alcohol-related crashes between Jan. 1 and Dec. 14, according to Montana Highway Patrol data.

So far this year, 29 more people have died on our highways and streets than were killed last year. In fact, 29 more have been killed in alcohol-related crashes, according to MHP data. Montanans should be concerned that the number of alcohol-related fatalities is up 69 percent this year from 2014.

These deaths were preventable. If drivers had not been impaired by alcohol or other drugs, 71 people would be still be alive.

Most Montanans understand that DUI is a danger and a crime. Montana law officers must be vigilant to apprehend the dangerous minority who persist in driving under the influence.

That's why the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force's Angel Tree ceremony also honored six Yellowstone County law officers for their efforts to stop DUI.

- Laurel Police Officer Jeremiah Johnson received an award of merit for making the most DUI arrests for the department for the year.
- MHP Trooper David Morris received an award for making 49 DUI arrests, 25 other alcohol-related arrests and 75 arrests related to illegal drugs in the first 10 months of 2015.
- Sheriff's Deputy Cactus Anderson was recognized for making 38 DUI arrests in the first 10 months of 2015.
- Billings Police Department Capt. John Bedford, who retired earlier this year, was honored for his 10 years of serving on the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force and his advocacy for strong DUI laws and for DUI treatment court.
- BPD Officer Glenn Gunther made 50 DUI arrests in the first 10 months of 2015.
- BPD Officer Brandon Ihde received an award for the sixth year in a row. He has 350 DUI arrests since

2010, more than any other officer in the department.

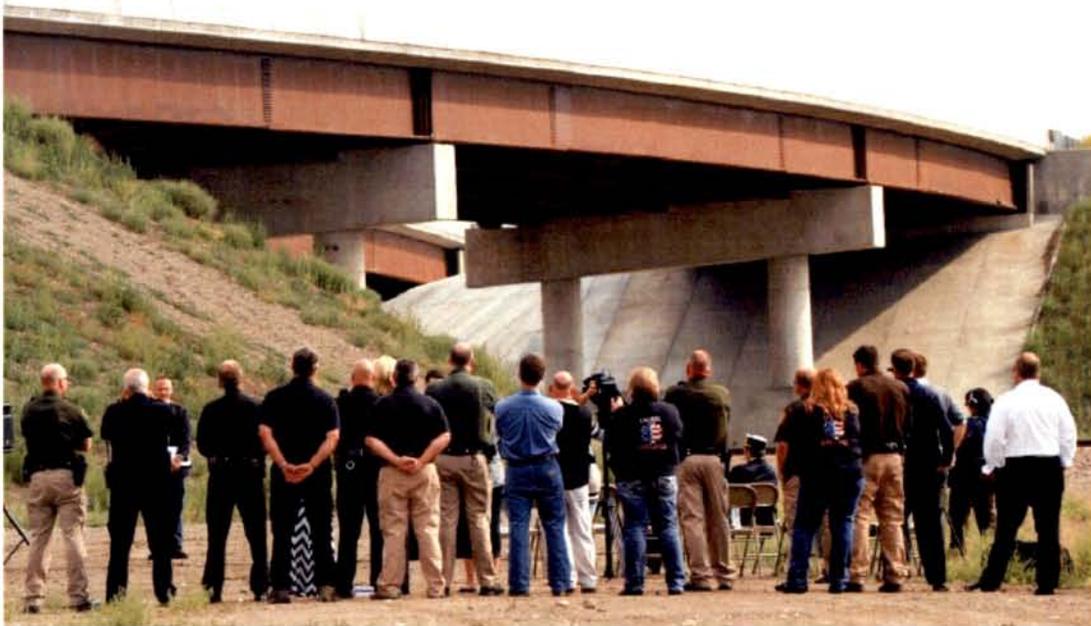
Morris, Anderson, Ihde and Gunther are all trained as drug recognition experts and use those skills to detect impaired drivers while on patrol.

It's good to know that such dedicated officers are on our streets and highways trying to protect the public. But they cannot be everywhere at once. Each driver has the responsibility of staying sober and alert. Everyone has a responsibility to avoid getting in a vehicle with an impaired driver.

It's true what they say: Friends don't let friends drive drunk – or drugged.

### Tags

## Highway 212 revamp includes 4-lane segments for safer passing on dangerous road



- LARRY MAYER/Gazette Staff

Montana Department of Transportation officials and law enforcement officers gather at the new U.S. Highway 212 overpass on Tuesday.

- LARRY MAYER/Gazette Staff

Deputy County Attorney Nicholas Owens talks about DUI mitigation as Montana Department of Transportation officials and law enforcement officers gather at the new U.S. Highway 212 overpass on Tuesday.

- LARRY MAYER/Gazette Staff

After an appearance at the new Highway 212 overpass Tuesday, MDT Director Mike Tooley spoke to the Policy Coordinating Committee on funding challenges.

LAUREL — Speaking to the media while using one of Montana's deadliest stretches of roadway as a

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-and-politics/highway-revamp-includes-4-lane-segments-for-safer-passing-on/article\\_af9c8ade-8a34-58ad-afe6...](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-and-politics/highway-revamp-includes-4-lane-segments-for-safer-passing-on/article_af9c8ade-8a34-58ad-afe6...) 1/3

backdrop, Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley on Tuesday called for "a changed mindset" among the state's drivers, particularly those who have been drinking or become distracted while driving.

"Please, take what you do behind the wheel seriously," Tooley said during a press conference held beneath a bridge along U.S. Highway 212 about two miles south of Laurel. "No longer can we turn our cheek and hope that everyone makes it home all right."

MDT's efforts include major improvements to Highway 212. Together with federal funding, MDT is spending up to \$46.8 million on a three-phase project to widen and improve Highway 212, including planned construction of three passing lanes.

The first phase, completed this summer, replaced the railroad underpass and substandard two-lane roadway south of Laurel with a new overpass over the BNSF railway.

Phase 2, nearly complete, redesigns the intersection of U.S. Highways 212 and 310 at Rockvale to manage increased traffic and provide for safer turns.

The third phase, scheduled to go out for bid in early 2016, will construct a new 10-mile stretch of U.S. 212 to address safety issues on the existing highway. It includes three four-lane segments for safer passing. The plan is for the 10-mile stretch of highway to eventually be four lanes throughout, but that will be contingent on future traffic capacity needs. Once the new highway is finished in 2017, the existing highway will remain in place for local access and be renamed Boones Ferry Road.

"Too many people have died or suffered serious injury in crashes" on Highway 212 between Laurel and Rockvale, Tooley said. "There is an average of one white cross per mile on this stretch, and we don't want to place even one more."

While modern highway engineering and construction help to keep motorists and passengers safe, non-transportation agencies are also working to bring down Yellowstone County's traffic fatality rate, which at 202 during the decade 2005-14 was the state's highest. Of those 202 deaths, 52 percent involved at least one impaired driver, and 66 percent were attributed to seat belts not being used.

Nicholas Owens, a deputy Yellowstone County Attorney who chairs the county's DUI task force, noted there were 3,635 car crashes in Yellowstone County in 2014 — about 1,000 more than in Missoula

County, the state's second-leading county for crashes.

Eighteen people were killed in vehicle crashes in Yellowstone County in 2014, according to MDT statistics. Of those crash fatalities, 11 — 61 percent — involved at least one impaired driver.

"Law enforcement is not the only force on the road," Owens said. "We must change the culture around drinking and driving."

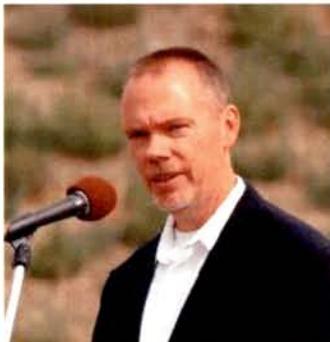
Police, sheriff's deputies and the Montana Highway Patrol once again plan to step up patrol leading up to Labor Day, as they also do over the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving holidays. MHP Sgt. Craig Baum said the success of the program is in part due to troopers being freed to seek out the traffic violations, including speeding and aggressive driving, often associated with impaired driving.

Those officers work overtime, Owens said, to "locate drunk drivers and hold them criminally accountable."

John Kougioulis of Townsend also has an important role making Montana roads safer. As the American Legion's fatality marker chair, Kougioulis helps local chapters place crosses at the scene of fatal accidents to remind motorists they're traveling a dangerous section of roadway.

When an agency like MDT makes a road safer by, for example, broadening it, the American Legion is called out to remove the fatality marker.

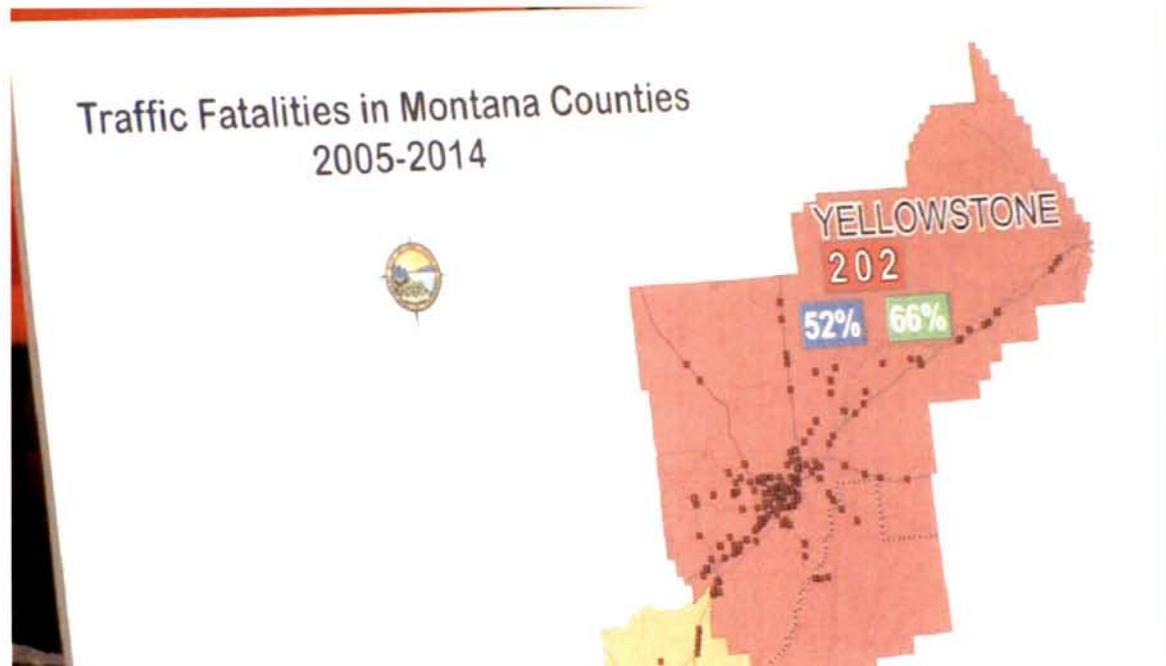
"The family sometimes gets excited, but it's a good thing," Kougioulis said. "It means the road is now safer."



## More Cars on Patrol as Montana's Deadliest Weekend Approaches

### Weather

Posted: Aug 18, 2015 3:18 PM MDT Updated: Sep 01, 2015 3:18 PM MDT



#### BILLINGS -

Drive sober and buckle up -- that's the Montana Department of Transportation's message for drivers the last few weeks of summer.

As Labor Day weekend approaches, law enforcement officials are increasing patrol efforts across the Treasure State. Tuesday afternoon, law enforcement members gathered to discuss the issue of impaired driving in Montana, and what's being done to curb the alarming statistics.

Labor Day weekend has been the deadliest holiday on Montana roadways for each of the last four years. In Yellowstone County, more than 200 traffic fatalities have taken place over the past decade. More than half of those deaths involved an impaired driver.

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force is one of the groups trying to save lives on state roadways. The task force is funded through the reinstatement fee that drunk drivers pay after their license has been

<http://www.nbcrightnow.com/story/29826444/more-cars-on-patrol-as-montanas-deadliest-weekend-approaches>

taken away. They also put reinstatement fee money towards prevention and enforcement, as some money pays for overtime to beef up patrol efforts on holiday weekends.

"The most important thing, is to make sure that the next generation of drivers knows that drinking and driving is unacceptable," said Nicholas Owens, Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Chair. "It's not worth it. It's not cool. It's dangerous, they're threatening lives, including their own."

The DOT's Vision Zero campaign also aims to prevent highway fatalities. Yellowstone County has the highest amount of deaths of any county over the last decade. 66 percent of those who died over that span were not wearing seatbelts.

Yellowstone County Sheriff Mike Linder says law enforcement agencies will have more officers and deputies on patrol starting tomorrow through Labor Day weekend.

"Obviously the drinking and driving -- we need to cut down on that," Sheriff Linder said. "Montana is a prime example, you know, you see the statistics, and that's why we have a collaborative effort like you see here today."

The event today was held near the new overpass on Highway 212 near Laurel, partially to highlight the project and its goal to lower traffic accidents on the highly-traveled highway to Red Lodge.

Mike Tooley, Montana DOT Director, says the \$46 million project -- years in the making -- is now much closer to completion.

Tooley says Highway 212 has long been a dangerous highway, and an area of concern for the state. But now the new overpass is finished, marking completion of the second of three phases.

"We're very excited about the structure that is now a four-lane instead of a two-lane structure and we're looking forward to next spring when we break ground on a 10-mile extension of 212, which will be brand-new," Tooley said. "It will have opportunities for passing lanes and turn lanes that don't exist today."

- Updated: May 19, 2016 1:20 PM MDT