



City of El Paso

Joint Review of Traffic-Related Fatalities

City Council Update
December 15, 2020



Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community

Values

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,
Accountability, **P**eople

Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government






Strategic Goals

Goal 7 - Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network

- 7.2 - Improve competitiveness through infrastructure improvements impacting the quality of life



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Quarterly Fatality Analysis Cross-Functional Team

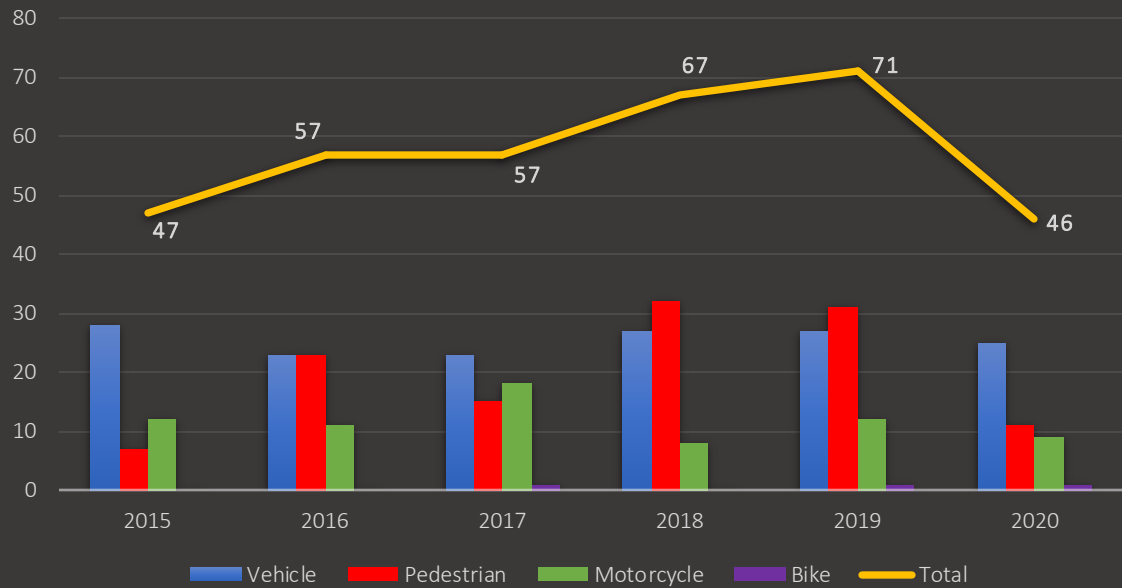
Coordinated Review of Traffic Related Fatalities

Traffic Engineering & Police Special Traffic Investigation (STI) Unit share data on pedestrian and vehicle fatalities in order to gain understanding on trends and factors to use as an information tool for potential safety improvements, enforcement, and public education efforts. The working group (in collaboration with TxDOT and CID) recommends solutions based on data collection that includes improvements in the street infrastructure, projects in planning, design or construction, traffic counts, and collision records.



El Paso Data (2015 – 2020 Q3)

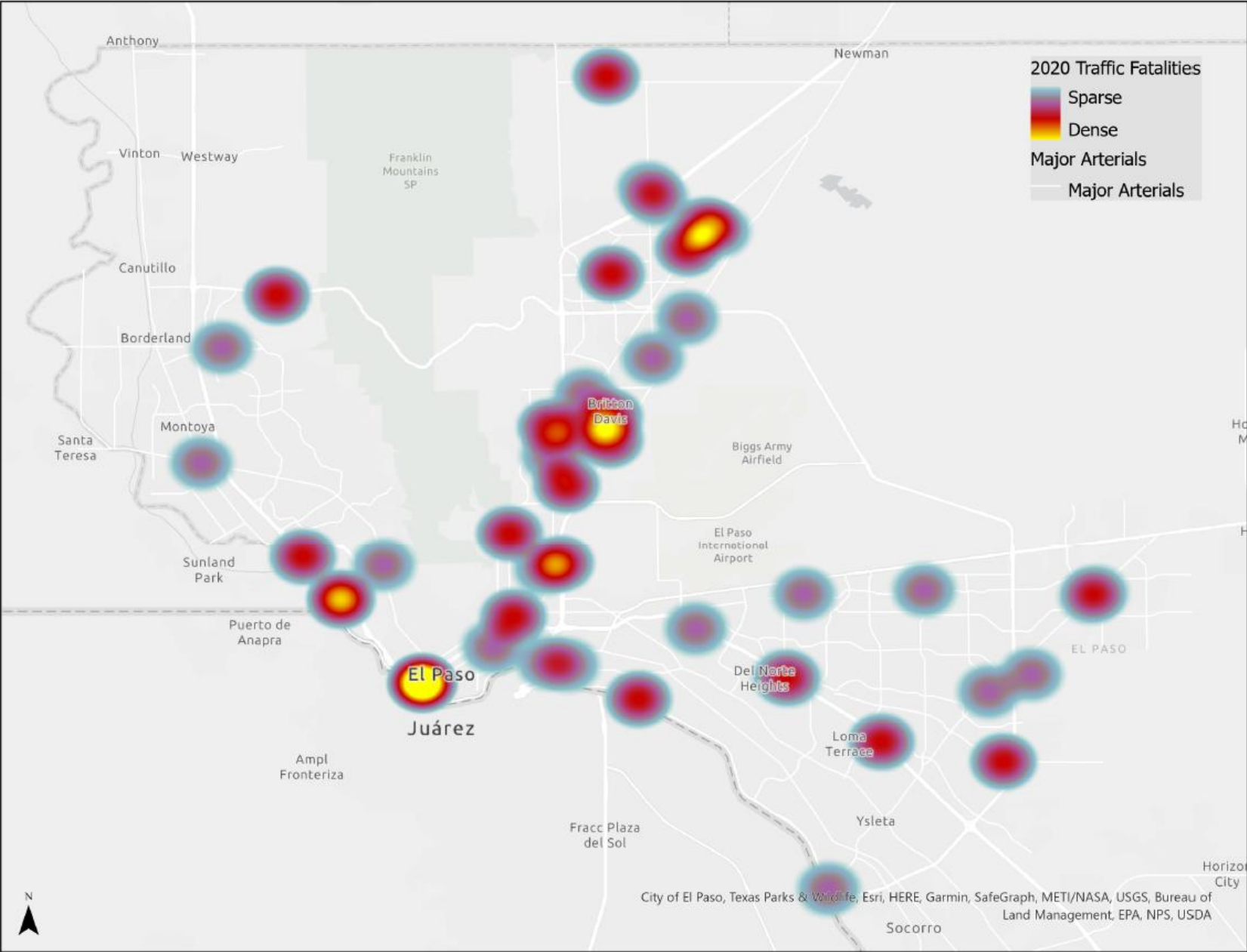
Traffic-Related Fatal Collisions by Type & Year
(Through 2020 Q3)



Traffic-Related Fatal Collisions by Type & Year
(Through 2020 Q3)

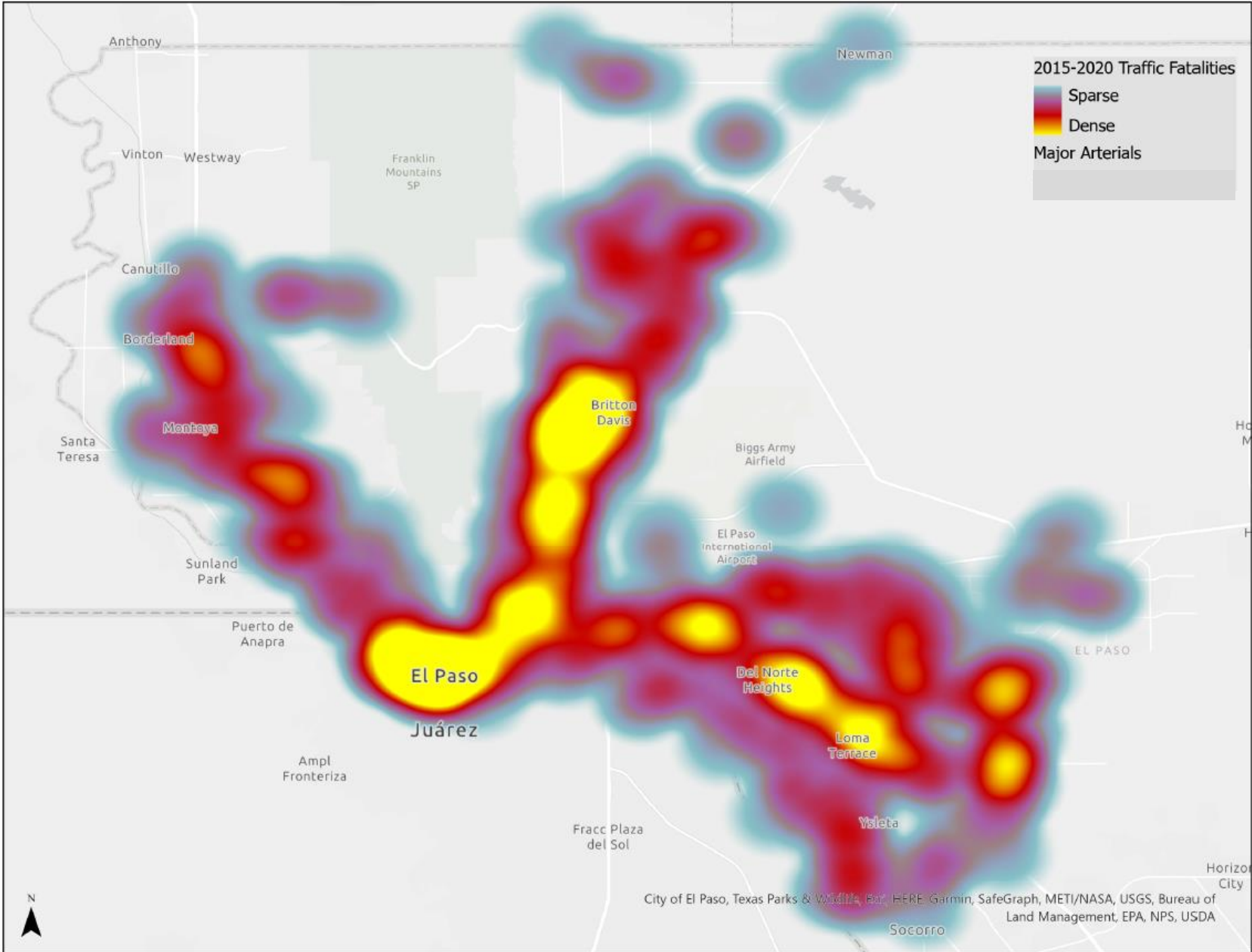
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Vehicle	28	23	23	27	27	29	153
Pedestrian	7	23	15	32	31	11	119
Motorcycle	12	11	18	8	12	9	70
Bike	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Total	47	57	57	67	71	46	345

El Paso Fatal Collisions Heat Map 2020 (Q1-Q3)





El Paso Fatal Collisions Heat Map (2015 -2020 Q3)

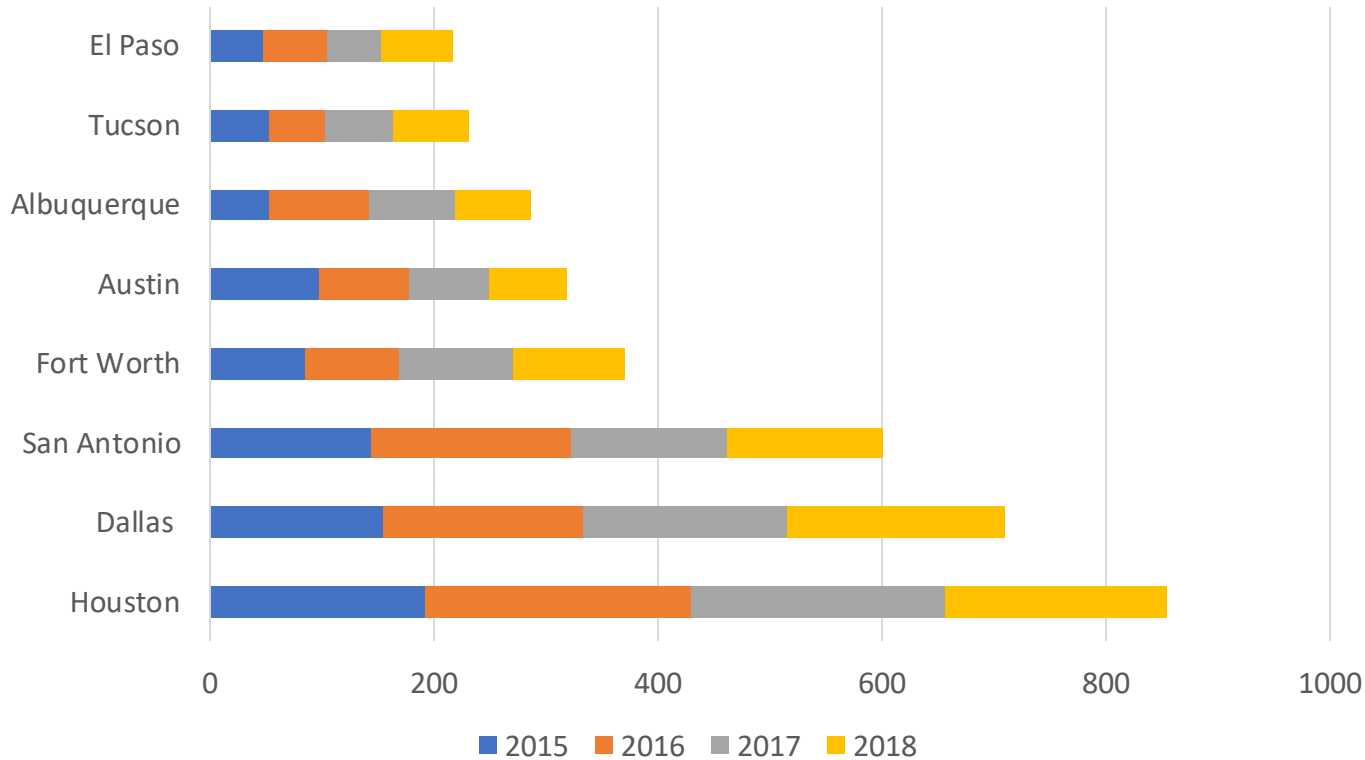


Mapping collisions allows visualization of trends and “hot spots”



Texas/Nearby Major City Comparisons of Fatalities

Total Annual Fatal Collisions (2015-2018)



Total Annual Fatal Collisions (2015 – 2018)*

City	Pop	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	2017 Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Pop
El Paso	685 K	47	57	48	65	217	7.31
Tucson	535 K	53	49	62	67	231	11.95
Albuquerque	560 K	52	90	77	68	287	15.04
Austin	950 K	97	80	73	69	319	8.41
Fort Worth	875 K	84	84	103	100	371	12.58
San Antonio	1.5 M	143	179	140	140	602	9.66
Dallas	1.3 M	154	179	182	195	710	14.47
Houston	2.3 M	192	237	228	198	855	10.59

**The final file for 2018 & 2019 annual report will be available in late fall of 2020.*

(<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812946>)

- (Sources: TXDOT, UNM, ADOT, NHTSA)

Facts + Statistics

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- 36,096 people died in motor vehicle crashes in **2019, down 2.0%** from 36,835 in 2018
- **Fatalities decreased slightly in 2019** for drivers, passengers, motorcyclists, pedestrians and pedal cyclists
- **Fatalities involving SUVs rose 3.4%** from 2018 and rose slightly in crashes involving large trucks
- Total fatality rate dropped to 1.10 in 2019, from 1.13 in 2018.

Texas			
Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths 2018-2019			
<u>State</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Texas	3,648	3,615	-0.9

2020 Information

- Estimate for the first half of 2020, which includes about three months of data during the COVID-19 epidemic, **shows that traffic fatalities fell 2.0% from first half 2019**, while vehicle miles traveled fell at the much faster rate of **16.6%**, leading to an **increase in the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled of 1.25%**, up from 1.06 in the same period in 2018.
- **Increase in traffic fatalities was likely caused by faster driving**

<https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-highway-safety>

Initiatives

Programs & Policies in Place that Address Traffic Safety

- **El Paso Police Department:**
 - ✓ Step Grants
 - ✓ Safety Town
 - ✓ Auto Safety Grant
 - ✓ Safe Communities Program
 - ✓ LSS Project- Traffic Safety Plan: Keeping our Pedestrians and Streets Safe (KOPSS)
- **Administrative:**
 - ✓ Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - ✓ Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)
 - ✓ Continuous Lighting of Arterial Roadways
 - ✓ Construction of New ADA Ramps
 - ✓ Service Requests

Police Department Initiatives

The **El Paso Police Department** prioritizes traffic and pedestrian safety and will continue to actively participate in the following programs/operations/initiatives:

- **2020 & 2021 STEP Grants**
 - Enforcing Traffic Laws where fatalities have occurred
 - Speed enforcement
 - Seatbelts & Child Safety Seats enforcement
 - DWI enforcement
 - Distracted Driving (cell phones) enforcement
 - Intersection Traffic Control (red light, stop sign, jaywalking) enforcement
- **Centralized HQ Motors Division** – Conducting motor surges throughout the City.
- **Unified Traffic Operations** – *DPS and EPPD will continue to work together conducting unified DWI enforcement throughout the City during major holidays.*
- **Participate in the Annual EPPD Safety Town** – event at Bassett Center. The training imparted is aimed at preventing traffic injuries and fatalities involving child pedestrians.
- **Red Light Camera (RLC) Program** – *Discontinued by the State.*
- **Expanded DWI Taskforce** – *Continued DWI enforcement throughout the City on a nightly basis.*
- **Auto Safety Grant** – EPPD awarded \$33,500 which will pay for:
 - Video equipment to produce traffic safety social media videos.
 - Virtual Reality Goggles
 - Educational Videos
 - Promotional items for pedestrian and traffic safety awareness
- **Media Releases** – *continued DWI enforcement*

Police Department Initiatives *continued...*

- **Education Efforts:** Presentations to schools, citizen groups, rec centers, colleges, military, etc. (Safe Communities Program)
- **Safety Fliers/Posters:** English/ Spanish distributed at businesses, community fairs, and civic centers
- **Constant Collaborative Efforts:** Community, other LEA, schools, and TXDOT



Programs/Process Total Millions in Improvements

There are many ways the City enhances traffic safety with State and internal city departments

- **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)** – Apply for State and Federal funding to address problem corridors and intersections
- **Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)** – Implement traffic calming on residential neighborhoods
- **ADA Improvements**
 - Annual allocation to install/improve ADA ramps throughout El Paso
 - Resurfacing – Ramps and sidewalks brought into compliance
- **Street Reconstruction Projects** – Full reconstruction brings opportunities to modify roadways with best practice safety improvements
- **Planning/Design Standards for Construction Guidance** – Assuring new development provides adequate infrastructure and incorporates current codes & practices
- **Street Illumination** – Providing continuous lighting along major corridors
- **Service Requests** – Citizens alert City staff to safety concerns on any one of the 6,117 streets in El Paso
- **Coordination with TxDOT** – Brainstorm and discuss current/future improvements
- **City of El Paso Bike Plan** – Improve all user's safety through implementation of Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School

Current/Future Initiatives for Safety Improvements

The City is incorporating new measures to address traffic safety

- **Coordination with EPPD/ SAM**

- Regular meetings to discuss recent fatal collisions
- SAM and EPPD bring their respective disciplines to evaluate and determine crash factors

- **Mapping Data (DDACTS/GIS)** – Mapping allows staff to pinpoint “hot spots” and trends so that resources can be more efficiently allocated

- **LSS Project- Traffic Safety Plan: Keeping our Pedestrians and Streets Safe (KOPSS)**

Mission: Collaboratively reduce fatalities, provide education, and increase traffic enforcement

Process:

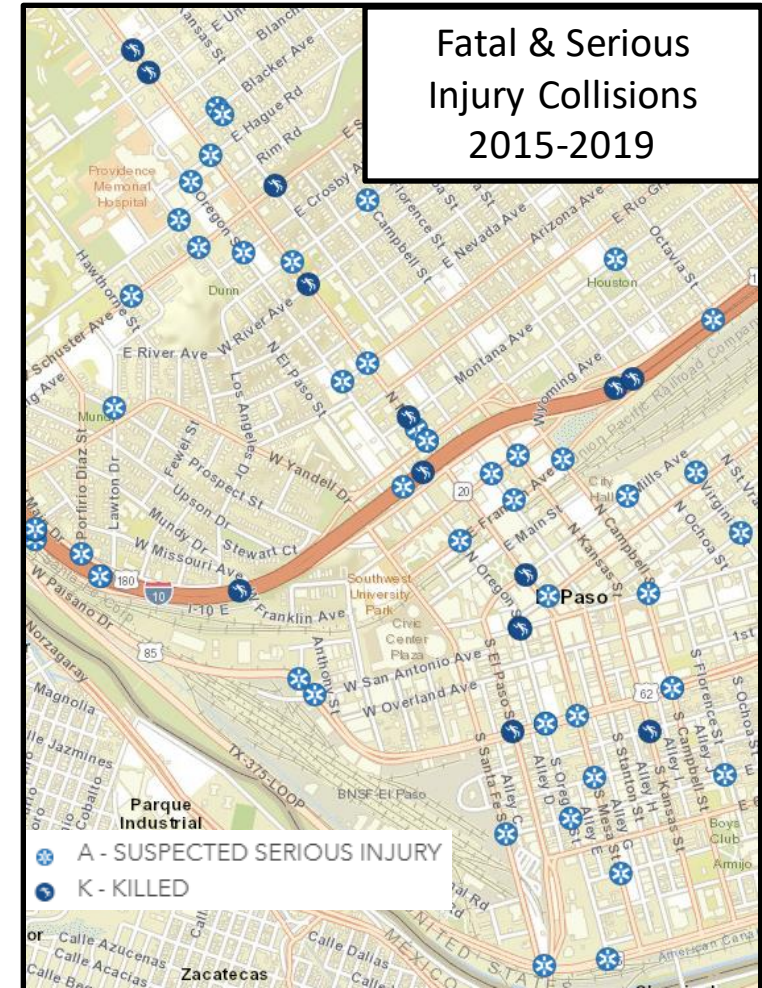
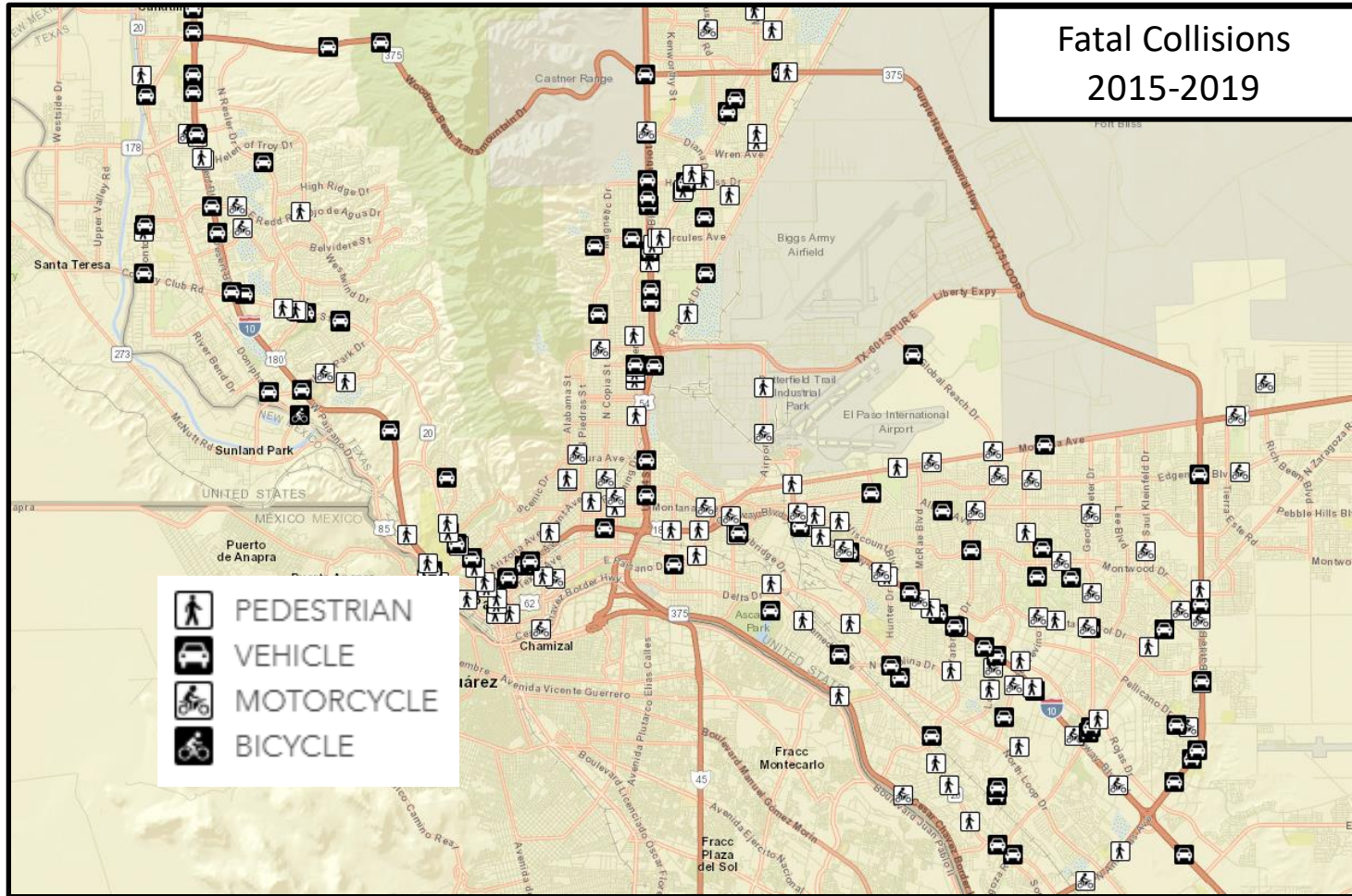
1. Create multiple options for traffic warrant enforcement
2. Reduce processing time

Result:

1. Increase officer availability and traffic enforcement
2. Increased efficiency
3. Increased quality of life
4. Improved police encounters

By coordinating information – both enforcement and traffic engineering related – we get the most accurate data to inform decision-makers on how to address fatal collisions.

Traffic Safety in El Paso – Mapping Identifies Patterns



Complete Streets

What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets is the concept of designing and operating streets to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.



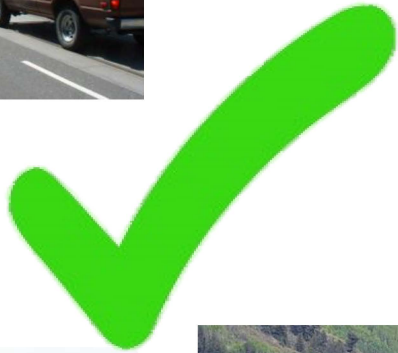
Complete Streets



- By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- Complete Streets Policies complement the City of El Paso's Bike Plan, Safe Route to School and reduction of fatal collision efforts.
- CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation + Kaiser Permanente, awards Cities for adoption of Complete Street Policies that require compliance. Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio have received gold medals for their Complete Streets Policies.
- A Complete Streets Coalition was created in El Paso by external stakeholders. SAM staff has been coordinating with the coalition in order to **pursue a policy that requires compliance.**



Complete Streets



Coordinated Review of Traffic Related Fatalities

Shattered Dreams Video Credits

Jefferson High School

Teacher - Mr. K Keich

The Broadcasting Crew

- Emma Kapsa
- Aldo Cruz
- Alejandro Coronado
- Isaiah Guerrero
- Sergio Baeza
- Jose Garcia
- Emmanuel Garcia

City Staff

- Rick Isaias
- Jonathan Romo
- Cynthia Aguiñaga

Initiatives

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Actions & Future Plans

Actions

- Address street illumination outages
- Coordinate with TxDOT
- Recommend road diets/complete streets approach
- Submit projects to Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding
- Create work orders to investigate and learn history of locations

Future Plans (2021)

- Continue quarterly meetings, reports and analyses
- Present a full summary of 2020 fatal collisions, recommendations and resolutions
- Coordinate Federal Highways Administration presentation on Vision Zero
- Complete Streets Policy

