

January 30, 2007

Mr. Pete Bodyk, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Traffic Safety
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, Kansas 66603

Dear Mr. Bodyk:

We have reviewed your fiscal year 2007 Annual Report and want to extend our *congratulations* to you and your entire staff on a very progressive year. According to the 2005 FARS fatality data, Kansas' fatalities have dropped to 428 from 459 in 2004, a 7% decrease. This represents a fatality death rate of 1.44, lower than the national average of 1.45.

While preliminary numbers from the FARS alcohol related fatalities data indicate that the alcohol related fatality rate per 100 million VMT have increased to .51 in 2005 from .48 in 2004, Kansas is still well below the national average of .56. We are confident through your efforts to improve BAC reporting in Kansas, the final numbers will be below .50 once again for 2005.

The efforts that you and your staff have put into developing Kansas programs are commendable. Your voluntary participation in the National Alcohol Crackdown has proven to be very successful. The partnerships that your office maintains with the Kansas State Patrol and local enforcement agencies to administer the Impaired Driving Deterrence Program (IDDP) are admirable. This IDDP program, which produced 91 checkpoints and 140 saturation patrols resulting in 411 DUI arrests and over 19,000 contacts, is an increase over last year and should show positive results for Kansas in 2007.

The 2007 Kansas adult safety belt usage rate again increased by 1.5 percentage points, bringing the usage rate up to 75%. Congratulations to all of you on this success! You are running a very successful "Click It or Ticket" safety belt initiative in the State. The law enforcement luncheons and incentives, corridor enforcement activities, the LEL program and the media initiatives that your office coordinates are exemplary and will continue to bring value to your program. With your continued focus on High Visibility Enforcement and supporting media coverage we should continue to see further increase in the Kansas safety belt usage rate.

An area of great concern on NHTSA's radar and I am sure is also of concern to you is the increased number of motorcycle fatalities. Nationally, the number of motorcycle fatalities is increasing each year and Kansas' motorcycle fatalities are no exception.

From 2005 to 2006 Kansas motorcycle fatalities increase by nearly 80%. Programs that you are planning for 2007 should help to slow down this upward trend in motorcycle deaths. Please continue to focus your programs on the highest crash areas of the state, which as you are aware will have the greatest safety impact.

Again, thank you for your annual report and congratulations on a very pro-active year in traffic safety. We look forward to working with you and your office in achieving your 2008 Highway Safety goals.

Sincerely,

Romell Cooks
Regional Administrator

cc. Mike Crow

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