



Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

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Champions of safety celebrated at Vision Zero Partner Conference

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Vision Zero Partner Conference celebrated North Dakota's top traffic safety champions Wednesday in Bismarck, recognizing those who go above and beyond to keep our roads safe.

Each year, the event shines a spotlight on individuals whose exceptional commitment and leadership support Vision Zero's bold mission: to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries across North Dakota.

The 2025 Bismarck region winners are in the following categories:

- **Appreciation Award** – This award recognizes individuals and or organizations who actively play a role in decreasing motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries in North Dakota through their work to support Vision Zero.
 - Colonel Brandon Solberg, retired, North Dakota Highway Patrol
 - Carol Thurn, North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Highway Safety Division
 - Sandy Wilson, NDDOT Highway Safety Division
- **Beyond the Traffic Stop Award** – This award honors officers who used outstanding investigative skills that led to multiple arrests for narcotics, stolen property and/or outstanding warrants from a single routine traffic stop.
 - Officer Andrea Benitez, Bismarck Police Department
- **Infrastructure Program of the Year** – This award recognizes a program that improves infrastructure safety to roadways, bridges or bicyclists/pedestrians throughout the state, region, a county or an organization.
 - NDDOT, Edling Electric, Inc.; Wrong Way Detection Project
- **Media Award** – This award is for the reporter/news organization that has been fair, balanced and informative in reporting transportation/traffic-related issues on radio, television, newspaper or internet/social media.
 - Dakota Media Access
 - KX News

- **Traffic Safety Officer of the Year** – This award is for an officer who has displayed a well-rounded effort for traffic safety through enforcement, community education and training.
 - Officer Tanner Benske, Bismarck Police Department

The two-day conference brings together representatives from law enforcement, transportation, engineering, public health and other traffic safety partners from across North Dakota to explore critical topics and innovative strategies aimed at saving lives on our roadways.

The Vision Zero Partner Conference is hosted by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and made possible thanks to Vision Zero sponsors Hess Corporation, Chord Energy, AAA – The Auto Club Group, Northern States Fishing Tools, Bolton & Menk, Stantec, OneOk, Luther Family Ford, Key Energy Services, Puklich, Bartlett & West, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Ace 24 Hour Towing, Apex Engineering Group, Harvestone, LCP and Ryan Family Dealerships.

To learn more about traffic safety initiatives visit VisionZero.ND.gov or join the conversation on the Vision Zero ND [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page.

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C O N T A C T :

Lauren Wahlman, Safety Public Information Program Manager
North Dakota Department of Transportation
lwahlman@nd.gov | 701-328-2598

