



Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

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Traffic Safety Advocates Recognized at Partner Conference

Bismarck, ND – Representatives of law enforcement, transportation, engineering, public health and other partners from across the state gathered virtually today to discuss traffic safety during the North Dakota Department of Transportation's Vision Zero Partner Conference.

Topics today included presentations on seat belt use, infrastructure updates, Vision Zero partners, road safety and emergency medical response. Tomorrow's agenda will focus on law enforcement and the dangers of distracted driving, as well as a networking session for Vision Zero partners to coordinate efforts to further advance North Dakota's Vision Zero initiative.

The Vision Zero Partner Conference holds an awards ceremony for those who showed outstanding service and dedication to accomplish the overall goal of Vision Zero, to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

The Fargo region winners are in the following categories:

- **2021 Drug Recognition (DRE) Officer of the Year** – This award is for a single DRE officer who excels in conducting drug evaluations, is active in promoting the DRE program within their agency and provides education and awareness to their peers and community about the dangers of drug use and drugged driving.
 - Sergeant Ryan Haskell of the West Fargo Police Department
 - Sergeant Haskell is detail-oriented and completes well-written and thorough drug evaluation reports. His professionalism and meticulous method for conducting drug evaluations is a credit to the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. He completed 13 drug evaluations during 2020 and made 22 DUI arrests.
- **2021 Beyond the Traffic Stop Award** – This award honors officers who used outstanding investigative skills that led to multiple arrests for narcotics, stolen property, and outstanding warrants from a single routine traffic stop.
 - Officer David Todd – West Fargo Police Department
 - Officer Todd made a traffic stop where the driver was found to be in possession of methamphetamine paraphernalia. Officer Todd was able to obtain narcotics intelligence from the driver and found out where drugs were being sold from an address in West Fargo.

- Corporal Jake Longlet – Cass County Sheriff’s Office
 - A traffic stop for no front plates and suspended licenses led to two arrests for burglary.
 - Officer Matthew Oldham – West Fargo Police Department.
 - Officer Oldham conducted a traffic stop on a pickup and observed signs of criminal behavior and noted an odor of marijuana. The three occupants were detained and a vehicle search was completed. Officers located illegal drugs and through a roadside investigation, it was learned that the occupants had just burglarized a residence in Cass County.
- **2021 Traffic Safety 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.
 - AM 1100 The Flag WZFG
 - WZFG advocates for traffic safety programs through their shows and website. In 2020-2021, WZFG posted 23 stories related to traffic safety and enforcement programs.
- **2021 Infrastructure Project of the Year** – This award recognizes a safety program, individual or project that improves infrastructure safety to roadways, bridges, or bicyclists/pedestrians throughout the state, region, a county, or an organization.
 - City of Fargo – 52nd Avenue South
 - The engineers were Houston Engineering and WSB and Associates. Contractor for the project was KPH, Inc. This project reconstructed two miles of 52nd Avenue South from a two-lane rural roadway into a four-lane divided urban roadway. The project included two new bridges, several new traffic signals, and most notably, the first restricted access U-turns constructed in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Pedestrians also benefit from miles of new path as well as new signal-controlled crossings and a below-grade crossing in the heart of the corridor.
- **2021 Honor Roll Award** – This award recognizes outstanding service to the community, information technology, safety, public affairs and consumer education programs throughout the state of North Dakota in the area of traffic safety.
 - Sergeant Luke Hendrickson – North Dakota Highway Patrol
 - Sergeant Hendrickson participates in the annual sobriety checkpoint each fall in Cass County. He has been instrumental in the planning and implementation of this program the past four years.
 - Deputy Keenan Zundel – Cass County Sheriff’s Office
 - Deputy Zundel participates in the annual sobriety checkpoint each fall in Cass County, and welcomed the participation of the Essentia Emergency Department. Deputy Zundel represents the Cass County Sheriff’s Office with the utmost professionalism.
- **2021 Civil Servant Award** – This award is for individuals who have gone above and beyond to assist or provide information to law enforcement to remove a reckless or impaired driver from the roadway.
 - Vicky Black, R.N. – Essentia Health in Fargo
 - Vicky organizes volunteers to aid the Cass County Sheriff’s Office during DUI sobriety checkpoints. She also volunteers to work every checkpoint that Cass

County participates in and volunteers to aid Standardized Filed Sobriety testing classes.

The Vision Zero Partner Conference is made possible thanks to Hess Corporation, AAA – The Auto Club Group, and Puklich Chevrolet.

Join the mission of Vision Zero to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota by becoming part of the [Vision Zero Partner Network](#).

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