



Delaware's 2026 Safety Performance Measure Targets Summary

2025 Reporting Cycle

In compliance with FHWA requirements for establishing safety performance measure (SPM) targets, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) have collaborated to develop targets for the five safety performance measures established by FHWA. Due to ongoing revisions by FHWA and NHTSA regarding SPM target setting timelines and requirements, DelDOT and OHS have agreed to report different targets for this reporting cycle as permitted by federal rulemaking. Both DelDOT and OHS remain committed to working together to improve safety on Delaware's roadways through a multitude of joint efforts, including the development of Delaware's 2026-2030 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which is actively underway at this time.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Delaware's 2021-2025 SHSP objective is to **reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 15% over the next five years** to ultimately reach the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on Delaware's roadways.

Target Development Methodology

During 2020, DelDOT and OHS and other statewide safety partners (including FHWA and NHTSA) collaborated to develop the *2021-2025 Delaware Strategic Highway Safety Plan: Toward Zero Deaths (2021-2025 SHSP)*, which provides a framework to reduce fatalities and serious injuries resulting from crashes on Delaware's roadways. As part of the plan's development, several trendlines were reviewed to establish an aggressive, yet achievable, overall objective. Through a comparison of these trendlines, the reduction of combined fatalities and serious injuries ranged from 2.6 to 4.4 percent annually or 12 to 20 percent over five years. Based on these historic trends, the *2021-2025 SHSP* established a five-year overall objective to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 15 percent (a 3.2 percent annual reduction) as measured from the 2015-2019 five-year rolling average.

For Delaware's 2026 safety performance measure targets, DelDOT will continue to align the annual SPM targets with the *2021-2025 SHSP's* five-year overall objective with one modification. Since the number of observed fatalities and serious injuries have trended upward (particularly in calendar year 2022) since development of the *2021-2025 SHSP* overall objective, meeting the originally established annual five-year rolling average targets has not consistently occurred. While not desired, these upward performance trends do not change the long-term goal established in the *2021-2025 SHSP* to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries. To mitigate establishing unachievable annual targets year-over-year, the 2026 frequency-based targets (i.e., 1, 2, and 5) match the 2025 targets which are not expected to be met. The resulting frequency-based SPMs 1 and 3 were combined with actual and projected vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to calculate the two rate-based SPM targets (i.e., 2 and 4). The table below shows the historical performance for 2020 to 2024, 2024 baseline, 2026 targets, and the CY2025 and CY2026 average values required to match the 2024 baseline and 2026 targets. The table also includes the VMT data for each year. FHWA determines a state has met or made significant progress when actual performance matches the established target or is better than the baseline for at least four of the five SPM targets.

Year	SPM # 1 Number of Fatalities	SPM # 2 Rate of Fatalities per 100 MVMT	SPM # 3 Number of Serious Injuries	SPM # 4 Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 MVMT	SPM # 5 Combined Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries	VMT (100 million)	
2020	116	1.39	447	5.37	95	83.2	
2021	136	1.34	559	5.51	113	101.5	
2022	162	1.64	591	5.99	116	98.7	
2023	135	1.39	547	5.65	110	96.7	
2024	129	1.33	578	5.94	132	97.3**	
2024 Baseline* <i>(2020-2024 Rolling Average)</i>	135.6	1.418	544.4	5.692	113.2	2025	97.9**
Required CY2025 and CY2026 Average to Match Baseline	126.0	1.365	503.0	5.440	104.0		
2026 Targets <i>(2022-2026 Rolling Average)</i>	108.2	1.108	424.3	4.338	82.4	2026	98.5**
Required CY2025 and CY2026 Average to Match Target	57.5	0.590	202.8	2.055	26.9		

* 2024 Baseline values are based on best available data at time of target setting and are subject to change when FARS and HPMS data are finalized.

** VMT values are projected and subject to change once final values are available through HPMS.

MVMT = Million Vehicle Miles Traveled



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