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## Illinois Highways: IDOT safety projects down, while Illinois National Highway System fatalities increase

Highway safety improvements decreased 33 percent while National Highway System fatalities rose 15 percent; Safety projects set to decrease another 72 percent through 2013

TFIC: Illinois should increase state highway safety funding by 50 %

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. – The Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) today called for a 50 percent increase in state highway safety funding to stem increasing National Highway System (NHS) fatalities in Illinois and reverse the decline in IDOT safety projects set to plunge another 72 percent.

Statistics for Fiscal Years 2000-2003 compared to Fiscal Years 2004-2007, show state budget reductions led to a decrease of 33% in the average annual number of safety/traffic improvements programmed for state highways. (Source: IDOT Annual Highway Programs)

Meanwhile, fatalities on Illinois' National Highway System increased 15 % from 2002 to 2005, from 412 lives to 473 lives. During those years, NHS fatalities across the entire nation increased just 2 %, from 13, 388 lives to 13, 594 lives. (Source: FHWA Highway Statistics)  
The NHS in Illinois is composed of the Interstate and most of the US and Illinois marked routes.

“The dramatic decline of transportation funding in Illinois has caused Illinois to cut back on highway safety projects leading to increased risks for the people traveling on our highways,” said



Doug Whitley, president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of TFIC.

“Unfortunately, the decrease in safety projects is about to go from bad to worse.

We urge our state’s elected officials to provide for a 50% increase in the funding for state highway safety projects as part of a comprehensive transportation funding plan.”

“Transportation funding is of critical importance to the men, women and families who travel our highways and expect the state to provide highway safety improvements. These statistics bear out our coalition’s warnings that Illinois faces an immediate and very real crisis,” said Michael Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and a co-chair of TFIC. “Our state has immense transportation needs and we are working with our elected officials to win approval of a comprehensive plan that will provide critical funding for highway safety improvements as well as the state’s critical transit and additional capital transportation needs. The Transportation for Illinois Coalition urges state leaders to provide an additional \$100 million over five years to increase highway safety funding throughout the state”

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is calling for a 50 % increase in IDOT safety/traffic improvements funding over five years. The cost estimate for the increased safety improvements is \$100 million over the five-year period.

From 2002 to 2005, Illinois’ NHS fatality rate (fatalities per 100 million miles traveled) increased 12%, while the nationwide NHS fatality rate decreased 3% over the same time period. (Source: FHWA Highway Statistics)

Illinois has traditionally been a leader in highway safety, but these statistics show it is beginning to slip and hard won gains are at risk of being lost.

Unfortunately, the State of Illinois’ most recent Proposed Multiyear Highway Program continues the budget shortfalls for state highway safety/traffic improvements. When compared to the average of FY 2004-FY 2007, Illinois highway safety improvements will decrease another 72 %.

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## STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY

### State Highway Safety/Traffic Improvements:

- Because of budget reductions the average annual number of safety/traffic improvements programmed for state highways has **decreased 33 %** comparing the period of FY 2000-2003 to FY 2004-2007. (Source: IDOT Annual Highway Programs)
  - FY2000-2003 average annual number of safety/traffic improvements programmed = 215 sites
  - FY2004-2007 average annual number of safety/traffic improvements programmed = 145 sites
- Because of continuing funding shortfalls state highway safety/traffic improvements will decrease another 72% through FY2013 compared to FY2004-2007 levels. (Source: IDOT FY 2008-2013 Proposed Multiyear Highway Program)
  - FY2008-2013 average annual proposes highway safety/traffic improvements programmed = 41 sites

### Illinois' National Highway System Fatalities Are Growing:

- The National Highway System in Illinois is composed of the Interstate and most of the US and Illinois marked routes
- Illinois' NHS fatalities increased 15% from 2002 to 2005. Nationwide NHS fatalities increased 2% over the same period. (Source: FHWA Highway Statistics)
  - In 2002 Illinois' NHS fatalities = 412 lives
  - In 2005 Illinois' NHS fatalities = 473 lives
  - In 2002 US total NHS fatalities=13,388 lives
  - In 2005 US total NHS fatalities=13,594 lives
- Illinois' NHS fatality rate (fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled) **increased 12%** from 2002 to 2005. The nationwide NHS fatality rate **decreased 3%** over the same time period.
- In 2002 Illinois had the **12<sup>th</sup> lowest** NHS fatality rate. In 2005 Illinois dropped to the **20<sup>th</sup> lowest** NHS fatality rate. (Source: FHWA Highway Statistics)
  - 2002 Illinois NHS fatality rate = 0.83 fatalities/100 M VMT
  - 2005 Illinois NHS fatality rate = 0.93 fatalities/100 M VMT
  - 2002 US NHS fatality rate= 1.05 fatalities/100M VMT
  - 2005 US NHS fatality rate= 1.02 fatalities/100M VMT



**National Highway System Statistics for Illinois**

(Source: FHWA Highway Statistics)

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) (in millions)	49801	50323	52015	51016
Fatalities	412	421	421	473
Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)	0.83	0.84	0.81	0.93

**Traffic/Safety Improvements Programmed on State Highway System**

(Source: IDOT Annual Highway Programs0)

FY2000	201
FY2001	217
FY2002	228
FY2003	214
FY2004	176
FY2005	170
FY2006	118
FY2007	116

**TFIC recommends increasing IDOT safety/traffic  
improvements funding by 50% (\$100 million)  
over five years.**

*TFIC is a diverse group of statewide and regional business, labor, industry, not-for-profit and governmental organizations that have joined together in a united and focused effort to support a strong transportation alliance for Illinois. The Coalition takes a comprehensive approach and seeks to speak with one voice for all of Illinois when it comes to transportation funding needs at the federal and state level. This comprehensive approach involves all modes of transportation, including rail, air, water, highways and mass transit. For more information about TFIC, visit [www.TFICIllinois.org](http://www.TFICIllinois.org).*