



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of February 18, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-E

**PREPARED BY:** Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner

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**SUBJECT:**

Performance Measure 1: Safety Target Acceptance

**Enclosure:** No

**Action:** Adopt the 2026 Caltrans Statewide Safety Performance Management Targets (SPMTS)

**SUMMARY:**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), sets statewide safety targets for five safety measures every year, known as Safety Performance Management Targets (SPMTs). This is pursuant to the Federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The safety performance measures are:

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) can either choose to support the statewide target or set a separate regional target. In 2024, Caltrans set statewide safety targets consistent with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)'s new requirement that would reflect constant targets between the 2021 and 2026 five-year rolling average.

Caltrans and OTS agreed on a method for the performance measures in fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026 that builds on trends occurring during COVID and other impacts that are causing fatalities and serious injuries to increase. The State ensured that targets provide a reduction or remain constant compared to the 2021 five-year rolling average, aligned with the NHTSA rulemaking. Therefore, OTS set the 2026 five-year rolling average target equal to the 2021 five-year rolling average and used the average annual change to calculate the

annual 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 values. Caltrans used the same 2025 target for 2026. The MCTC Board has previously supported that target.

In preparation for the California 2026 SPMT target setting efforts, Caltrans and MPOs participated in the MPO outreach webinar on September 25, 2025, to coordinate efforts. Since it is an annual target, MPOs must set regional targets by February 27, 2026. In order to be consistent with Caltrans' approach to safety target setting for 2026, MCTC will continue supporting statewide targets for 2026 as it has in past years. Based on this methodology, 2.84% and 3.69% are the annual reduction targets for the number of fatalities and serious injuries, respectively. Similarly, the annual reduction targets for the rate of fatalities and rate of serious injuries are 4.61% and 3.69%, respectively. The number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries are computed using 2.84% and 3.69% annual reduction, respectively, to calculate the annual target for 2026.

Staff recommend adopting the statewide targets for all five safety performance measures for 2026, as identified in Table 1. The regional targets are shown in Table 2.

Table 1. 2026 Caltrans Statewide Safety Performance Management Targets (PM 1)

<i>Performance Target</i>	<i>FY 2026 Target (5- Yr. Average)</i>	<i>Average Annual Reduction</i>
Number of Fatalities	3,933.2	-2.84%
Rate of Fatalities (per 100M VMT)	1.2	-4.61%
Number of Serious Injuries	16,016.9	-3.69%
Rate of Serious Injuries (per 100M VMT)	5.205	-3.69%
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Severe Injuries	4,402.5	-2.84% for fatalities and -3.69% for serious injuries

Table 2. 2026 Regional Targets

<i>Performance Target</i>	<i>FY 2026 Target (5- Yr. Average)</i>	<i>FY 2026 Target (Actual Annual Number)</i>	<i>Percent Reduction (2026)</i>
Number of Fatalities	36.7	36	-2.84%
Rate of Fatalities (per 100M VMT)	1.83	1.7	-4.61%
Number of Serious Injuries	124.8	120.2	-3.69%
Rate of Serious Injuries (per 100M VMT)	6.2	6.0	-3.69%
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Severe Injuries	15.8	15.3	-2.84% for fatalities and -3.69% for serious injuries

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact on the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.