

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: March 15, 2007

TO: Members of the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Motor Vehicle Commission

FROM: Cameron McLay, Captain of Traffic

SUBJECT: **City of Madison Traffic Crash Data**

We continue to hear that the driving environment is getting more and more dangerous. Absent data, people rely on perceptions and emotional response to those perceptions. Wondering what trends might exist; I pulled the State Accident Report forms for 2000 - '05, and noted the **TOTAL ACCIDENTS BY MUNICIPALITY** for the City of Madison. I pulled the number of fatality accidents, injury accidents, property damage accidents, number of Alcohol related accidents and total accidents citywide for each year. In addition, I obtained statewide data for crashes from 1995 - 2005.

Attached are two spreadsheets with the results. On the "Traffic Incidents Mclay" sheet examining City of Madison crashes, you will see that, from 2000 - '05, there were 15% decreases in Injury crashes, 14% decrease in PDO and 10% decrease in Alcohol related crashes. (Fatalities are down 25% but with the sample size, I do not know that this would be statistically significant. On the other document, you will see that there is a similar pattern displayed statewide.

There have been no significant operational changes in this time period, except the elimination of PM TEST / creation of CPTs. That has no bearing on the number of crashes, so we are comparing "apples to apples" with these years.

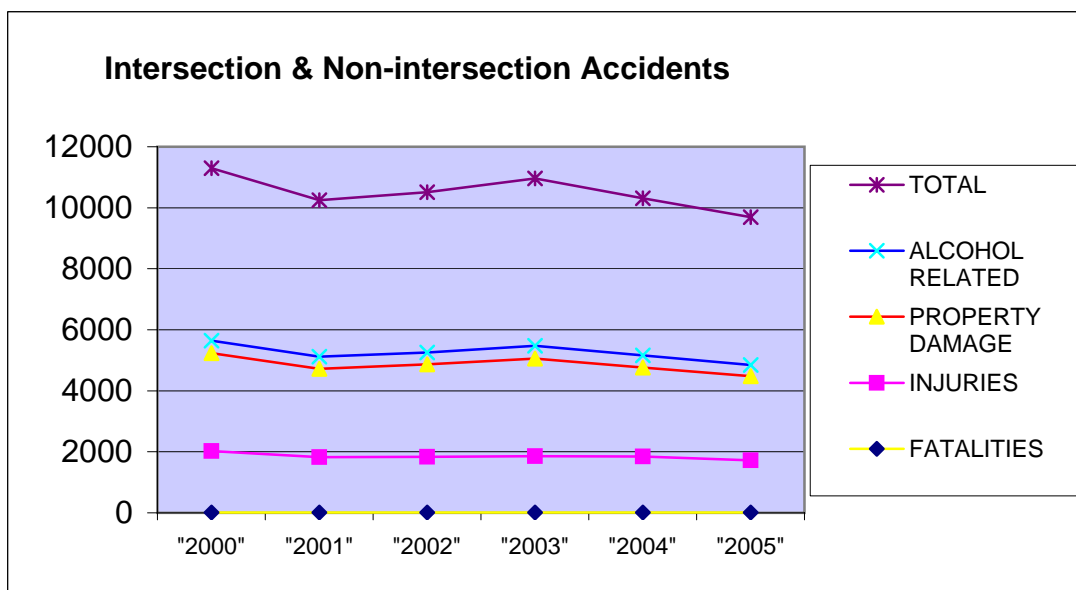
I would not claim that all of the law enforcement and traffic safety community's efforts are responsible for these reductions. I have heard some argue mild winters as a factor. However, I think it unrealistic to think that these efforts were not a factor. As such, this data is as important for consideration by the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Motor Vehicle Commission, as our citation numbers, which are routinely examined.

This is not intended to minimize our traffic safety problem, and it is important to reiterate that we are drawing no definitive conclusions on the basis of this information. We are simply using it as a barometer for measuring the validity of our perceptions and our assumptions about enforcement strategies. We will continue to monitor such crash data in order to check the validity of our belief that traffic law enforcement is most effectively conducted using a problem-solving mindset; using crash data and citizen complaints to help direct our enforcement efforts. At this point, the data seems to hint that the traffic safety community is moving in the right direction and there is no increase in crashes to suggest that our enforcement efforts are ineffective.

STATEWIDE	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Prelim 2006
Fatal Crashes	656	656	631	628	674	718	684	723	748	714	700	662
Injury Crashes	43,845	43,773	41,962	41,594	41,345	43,145	39,358	39,634	39,413	38,451	37,515	
Property Damage Crashes	104,363	92,269	87,361	83,609	88,931	95,647	85,361	88,715	91,030	89,143	86,959	
Total Crashes	148,864	136,698	129,954	125,831	130,950	139,510	125,403	129,072	131,191	128,308	125,174	

Traffic Incidents - McLay

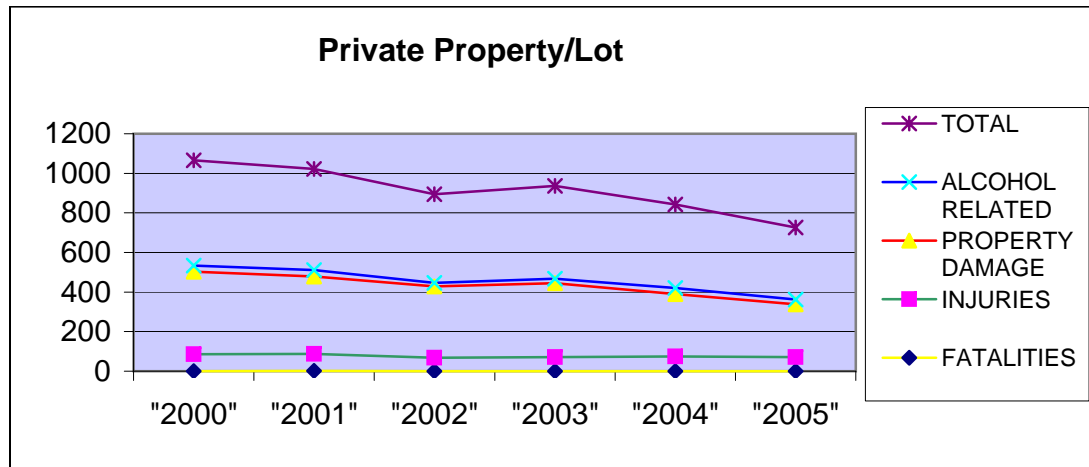
INTERSECTION & NON-INTERSECTION ACCIDENTS						PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ACCIDENTS			
YEAR	FATALITIES	INJURIES	PROPERTY DAMAGE	ALCOHOL RELATED	TOTAL	Fatalities	Injuries	Prop Dam	Alc Rel
"2000"	12	2014	3208	412	5646	0.21%	35.671%	56.819%	7.297%
"2001"	6	1824	2890	404	5124	0.12%	35.597%	56.401%	7.884%
"2002"	12	1821	3037	384	5254	0.23%	34.659%	57.804%	7.309%
"2003"	15	1843	3201	420	5479	0.27%	33.638%	58.423%	7.666%
"2004"	13	1838	2916	389	5156	0.25%	35.648%	56.555%	7.545%
"2005"	9	1711	2755	370	4845	0.19%	35.315%	56.863%	7.637%



Yearly Decrease/Increase Percentage						
FROM/TO	FATALITIES	INJURIES	PROPERTY DAMAGE	ALCOHOL RELATED	TOTAL	
"00-01"	-50%	-9%	-10%	-2%	-9%	
"01-02"	100%	0%	5%	-5%	3%	
"02-03"	25%	1%	5%	9%	4%	
"03-04"	-13%	0%	-9%	-7%	-6%	
"04-05"	-31%	-7%	-6%	-5%	-6%	
"00-05"	-25%	-15%	-14%	-10%	-14%	

Traffic Incidents - McLay

PRIVATE PROPERTY/LOT						PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ACCIDENTS			
YEAR	FATALITIES	INJURIES	PROPERTY DAMAGE	ALCOHOL RELATED	TOTAL	Fatalities	Injuries	Prop Dam	Alc Rel
"2000"	0	86	417	30	533		16.135%	78.236%	5.629%
"2001"	1	87	391	32	511	0.20%	17.025%	76.517%	6.262%
"2002"	0	68	360	19	447		15.213%	80.537%	4.251%
"2003"	0	71	374	23	468		15.171%	79.915%	4.915%
"2004"	0	75	315	31	421		17.815%	74.822%	7.363%
"2005"	0	71	267	25	363		19.559%	73.554%	6.887%



Yearly Decrease/Increase Percentage					
FROM/TO	FATALITIES	INJURIES	PROPERTY DAMAGE	ALCOHOL RELATED	TOTAL
"00-01"	100%	1.163%	-6.235%	6.667%	-4.128%
"01-02"	-100%	-21.839%	-7.928%	-40.625%	-12.524%
"02-03"	0%	4.412%	3.889%	21.053%	4.698%
"03-04"	0%	5.634%	-15.775%	34.783%	-10.043%
"04-05"	0%	-5.333%	-15.238%	-19.355%	-13.777%
"00-05"	0%	-17.442%	-35.971%	-16.667%	-31.895%