



NEWS RELEASE

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Life-Altering Crash Map Available

Knoxville, Tennessee – July 21, 2021 – Every 13 hours in our region, someone experiences a fatal or life-altering traffic crash. A new [interactive map](#) created by the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) shows where they occur and sorts them by severity and type.

Between January 2016 and June 2019, 2,326 crashes occurred. Of those, 321 were fatalities and 2,005 involved a serious injury. This tool helps to better understand where, when and how these types of crashes happen, as well as the impact they have on individuals, families and communities.

The idea for this mapping and data analysis came from previous work on [pedestrian- and bicycle-related traffic crashes](#). Pedestrian- and bicycle-related crashes account for approximately eight percent of life-altering crashes in the region. TPO staff wanted to investigate additional crash types to better understand the locations and circumstances in which all road users are most at risk.

Several categories of crashes were analyzed for the map, and in some instances, more than one factor is at play. The categories are:

- Single-motor-vehicle-only crashes, which are typically crashes in which one vehicle runs off the road and hits a pole, tree, or other object;
- Senior-driver crashes, which involve a driver age 65 or older;
- DUI crashes, where the police report notes the possible presence of alcohol or drugs in at least one person involved;
- Teen-driver crashes, which involve a driver between the ages of 13 and 19;
- Motorcycle-related crashes; and
- Pedestrian- or bicycle-related crashes.

This data is important to the TPO's work on traffic safety. Some crash types occur more often on certain days and times of day, and most of them occur on just 13 roadways in the region. Many of these crashes also involve alcohol or other drugs, which suggests that the use and abuse of these substances is an important factor. Addressing these issues requires a broad effort by multiple parties. The TPO helps coordinate those efforts by regularly collaborating with local governments, TDOT, and others to share information.

To see the map, as well as noteworthy crash facts, visit knoxtpo.org/crashes.

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Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) coordinates a comprehensive, multimodal transportation planning process for the Knoxville Urban Area. Member jurisdictions include Knox County and the urbanized areas of Anderson, Blount, Loudon and Sevier Counties and includes the following cities: Alcoa, Clinton, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Loudon, Maryville and Oak Ridge, the Town of Farragut, Tennessee Department of Transportation and East Tennessee Development District. For more information, visit our website: www.knoxtpo.org