

Road Services Division 2006 Annual Traffic Safety Report



Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

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Cover Photo:

A major windstorm struck the Puget Sound region on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, bringing trees and power lines down across roads throughout unincorporated King County. The Road Services Division responded to more than 40 road closures in unincorporated King County, including blockages on major arterials. Every available maintenance employee was dispatched armed with chainsaws in an effort to clear trees and get roads reopened. Traffic crews are also responding to malfunctioning signals that were damaged by the high winds. The cover photo is one of the many photos of some of the storm damage taken by the maintenance crews.



Department of Transportation

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2006, a total of 2,887 collision reports were filed within unincorporated King County. These included 20 fatalities and 1083 injury collisions, 1653 property damage only collisions and 131 unknown collisions. Using \$1M for fatalities, \$65,000 for injuries, and \$6000 for property damage only and unknown collision types the estimated societal cost was \$101.1 million.

Executive Summary Table A			
Most Severe Injury	2006	2006	2006
	Collision Reports		Estimated Cost
Dead at Scene	11		
Dead on Arrival	2		
Died in Hospital	7	20	\$20,000,000
Disabling Injury	106		
Evident Injury	366		
Possible Injury	611	1083	\$70,395,000
No Injury	1653	1653	\$9,918,000
Unknown	131	131	\$786,000
	2887		
			\$101,099,000

This report reviews collision trends within unincorporated King County and the safety related programs utilized by the King County Department of Transportation (KCDOT) in the ongoing effort to reduce the number and severity of these collisions. This report is intended to provide critical information that can be used to better allocate limited safety funds, increase driver awareness of safety concerns, and improve the safety of the traveling public.

This report is prepared by the Road Services Division's Traffic Engineering Section, and is an integral part of KCDOT's Safety Management System.

1.1. Trends

It is necessary to account for these external factors when comparing 2006 collisions with data from previous years. To allow direct comparison, the data is "normalized" using the estimated collision rate (collisions per million vehicle miles traveled) for vehicular collisions, and using collisions per 100,000 population for pedestrian and bicycle collisions. The estimated collision rate (collisions per million vehicle miles) has

fluctuated over the last six years, varying between 1.05 and 1.20 with no evident trend. Pedestrian and bicycle collision rates (collisions per 100,000 population) have also fluctuated, varying between 9.15 and 12.23 and 5.72 and 10.24 respectively with no evident trend since 2001.

Further information on trends is provided in the Sections of this report.

Year	Total Collision Reports	All County Roads			
		Average Daily Traffic Volumes (ADT)	Maintained Road Miles	Annual Million Miles Driven	Estimated Collision Rate
2001	2320	6,635	1,832	2,218	1.05
2002	2617	6,635	1,895	2,295	1.14
2003	2698	6,531	1,883	2,244	1.20
2004	2774	7,238	1,859	2,456	1.13
2005	2929	7,177	1,856	2,431	1.20
2006	2887	7,517	1,849	2,537	1.14

Year	Population	Pedestrian		Bicycle	
		Collisions	Collisions per 100,000 population	Collisions	Collisions per 100,000 population
2001	349,773	32	9.15	20	5.72
2002	351,675	43	12.23	36	10.24
2003	351,843	40	11.37	23	6.54
2004	356,795	35	9.81	27	7.57
2005	364,498	43	11.80	28	7.68
2006	367,000	36	9.81	26	7.08

