**Pedestrian Talking Points**

**Key Messages**

1. **Pedestrian involved traffic crashes remain a serious public safety issue.**
* From 2015-2019, 238 pedestrians were killed in Minnesota making up 12 percent of all traffic deaths.
	+ 63 percent of the pedestrians killed were males.
	+ 32 percent of the pedestrians killed were known to be drinking.
	+ October was the deadliest month with an average of eight pedestrians killed each year.
* In 2019, 50 pedestrians were killed on Minnesota roads, up 5 from 2018, but down 10 from 2016.
* On average, there were 48 pedestrian deaths 993 injuries each year (2015-2019).
1. **Motorists and Pedestrians play key roles in traffic safety.**
* The majority of pedestrians killed in 2019 were either crossing the road (60 percent), walking with traffic (10 percent), or working/playing in the roadway (6 percent).
* The main reasons attributed to motor vehicle drivers in pedestrian crashes are failure to yield the right-of-way and careless driving.
* Typically each year about one-third of pedestrians killed had alcohol in their system.
1. **Pedestrian/Vehicle crashes can be avoided.**
* Pedestrians can ensure their safety by:
	+ Crossing at a corner, a marked crosswalk or where a traffic light is present.
	+ Pay attention, look both ways before crossing, and make eye contact with drivers before entering the road to ensure the driver sees you.
	+ Never cross in the middle of the road or walk down an interstate.
	+ Wear bright colored clothing when walking at night.
* Motorists must:
	+ Treat every corner as a crosswalk and stop for crossing pedestrians at all corners and crosswalks whether marked or unmarked — this is the law
	+ Drive at safe speeds, be alert for pedestrians, and stop for them when they are crossing.
	+ Pay attentions: Drive distracted free. Driver distraction is a leading cause of pedestrian/vehicle crashes.