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### VTrans to Use Message Boards to Report Weekly Traffic Deaths

MONTPELIER, Vt.—April 5, 2016--The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is joining a growing group of states including Tennessee and Colorado in using variable message boards to report on highway fatalities and provide important highway safety reminders. Beginning tomorrow and continuing every Wednesday, the network of electronic signs will display the current number of people who have lost their lives on Vermont's highways this year. Unfortunately, that number changes nearly every week.

"Most highway deaths are preventable and can clearly be connected with driver behavior," said VTrans Chief Engineer, Kevin Marshia. "Speed, distraction, wearing seat belts and not driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol are all things that driver can control and we hope that this sobering reminder will help everyone become more aware of the consequences of these behaviors. Every highway death is a tragedy for families and communities and we need to do everything we possibly can to stop this."

The same message will also be shared via social media channels every Wednesday. Information about crashes on Vermont highways is published weekly at [highwaysafety.vermont.gov](http://highwaysafety.vermont.gov).

VTrans has also created a new application for exploring data on locations and causes of crashes. The Public Query Crash Data Tool allows users to search by road, cause, date, time of day and a number of other variables and displayed using a google map and street view interface at <http://apps.vtrans.vermont.gov/CrashPublicQueryTool/>.