

PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU TRAFFIC DIVISION

BICYCLE FATALITY SUMMARY

JANUARY 1995 – DECEMBER 2005

Prepared by:
Lt. Mark Kruger
Traffic Division
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The purpose of this summary is to identify and review for specific causation each bicyclist versus motor vehicle fatal traffic collision from January 1995 through December 2005.

A total of 24 bicyclists were killed as a result of traffic collisions within the City of Portland during the 11 year period of this review. Overall, there were a total of 449 fatalities as a result of all traffic collisions during this period. Bicyclists represent 5% of those total fatalities. Of these total fatalities bicyclists were found to be at fault through the investigation in 14 or 58% of collisions, while the motorist was found to be at fault in 9 or 38% of the collisions. In one case a full conclusion of fault has not been determined and it is likely that both the motorist and bicyclist were partly at fault. The source of this information is the case records maintained by the Portland Police Bureau Traffic Division.

Geographically, with the exception of North Precinct, the fatalities are fairly equally distributed throughout the city as divided by precinct boundary:

- East Precinct 7 collisions 29%
- Southeast Precinct 5 collisions 21%
- Central Precinct 5 collisions 21%
- North Precinct 1 collision 4%
- Northeast Precinct 6 collisions 25%

The majority of collisions occurred during the hours of daylight, 14 or 58%. The remainder of collisions occurred during the hours of darkness, 9 or 42%. In three cases during the hours of darkness the bicyclist was operating without lighting equipment.

Significantly, DUII motorists account for fault in 5 out of 9 collisions, or 56%, where the motorist was at fault. Additionally, in three other instances the bicyclist was impaired by alcohol and at fault or partially at fault for the collision.

The principle causation and commonality for total collisions are as follows:

- In four cases, or 29% of cases where the bicyclist was at fault, the bicyclist failed to stop and remain stopped to yield right of way at stop signs or red traffic signals.
- One motorist failed to stop and remain stopped at a stop sign to yield the right of way for a bicyclist.
- In the remaining ten cases of bicyclist fault the bicyclist often turned suddenly in front of a motorist who had no opportunity to react and stop, fails to yield at non-intersection locations where the motorist has the right of way, or in one case apparently lost control and collided with the motorist.
- Nine of the total collisions occurred at intersection locations.
- All DUII motorists in this review struck bicyclists from behind on straight sections of roadway.

- Hit and run motorists struck three bicyclists and in one case the motorist was DUII. In one of the additional cases the motorist was likely DUII but this could not be confirmed because of the time it took the investigators to locate and arrest the driver.

See the following collision summaries for each collision during this period of review.

Collision Summary

1995

September 19, 1995 1102 hours E. Burnside west of NE 148th Ave.

Bicyclist traveling W/B on E Burnside on the left hand side of the travel lane. Bicyclist suddenly turns in front of motorist who is also traveling W/B on E Burnside and a collision occurs when the motorist is not able to stop to avoid the bicyclist. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

This collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of daylight.

1996

No reported fatal bicycle involved collisions in 1996.

1997

February 1, 1997 1400 hours W/B NE Marine Dr. at the 5000 Block

Bicyclist traveling W/B on NE Marine Dr when struck from behind by a DUII motorist. The DUII motorist is at fault for the collision.

This collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of daylight.

July 16, 1997 1414 hours SE 70th Ave. and SE Division St.

Bicyclist traveling S/B on SE 70th Ave fails to stop at a stop sign and rides into the side of a Tri-Met bus that is traveling W/B on SE Division St. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

This collision occurred in Southeast Precinct during the hours of daylight.

July 31, 1997 0039 hours E/B Morrison Bridge

Bicyclist is struck from behind by a DUII motorist E/B on the Morrison Bridge. The DUII motorist is at fault for the collision.

This collision occurred in Central Precinct during the hours of darkness.

September 17, 1997 1730 hours NW 28th Ave. and NW Thurman St.

Bicyclist is traveling N/B on NW 28th Ave fails to stop at a stop sign and strikes a motorist who is turning right to W/B NW Thurman St and proceeding with the right of way. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Central Precinct during the hours of daylight.

October 16, 1997 0600 hours NE Portland Highway west of NE 60th Ave.

Bicyclist is crossing NE Portland Highway from north to south fails to yield right of way to a motorist who is traveling E/B and is struck. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of darkness. The bicyclist was operating without lighting or contrasting clothing.

1998

May 27, 1998 1047 hours SE Taylor St. and SE 37th Ave.

Motorist traveling S/B on SE 37th Ave at stop sign fails to yield right of way to bicyclist proceeding W/B on SE Taylor St. The motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Southeast Precinct during the hours of daylight. The bicyclist was not wearing contrasting clothing.

June 16, 1998 1805 hours NW Front Ave. and NW 15th Ave.

Bicyclist attempts to cross NW Front Ave from NW 15th Ave against a red traffic light and is struck by a motorist who is proceeding N/B on NW Front Ave with the right of way. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

This collision occurred in Central Precinct during the hours of daylight.

October 8, 1998 0040 hours W/B Burnside Bridge

Bicyclist traveling W/B on the Burnside Bridge leaves the bicycle lane and rides into the right travel lane and is struck by a Tri-Met bus that is also traveling W/B. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Central Precinct during the hours of darkness. The bicyclist was operating without lighting or contrasting clothing.

1999

June 1, 1999 0455 hours S/B Interstate 5 south of Marine Dr. Exit

Bicyclist is riding S/B on Interstate 5 when he dismounts and walks into the center travel lane apparently to retrieve something where he is struck by a S/B motorist. The bicyclist is found to have a .26 BAC. The bicyclist/pedestrian is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in North Precinct during the hours of darkness. The bicyclist is operating without lighting or contrasting clothing. Bicycles are prohibited on interstate highways.

2000

No reported fatal bicycle involved collisions in 2000.

2001

January 10, 2001 1005 hours NE Killingsworth St. west of NE 9th Ave.

Bicyclist traveling W/B on NE Killingsworth St turns into path of passing motorist who is also W/B on NE Killingsworth St. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of daylight. The bicyclist is operating without contrasting clothing.

July 5, 2001 1440 hours NE Sandy Blvd. west of NE 37th Ave.

Bicyclist traveling W/B on NE Sandy Blvd is struck by a tractor trailer while apparently attempting to over take and pass the tractor trailer that was turning onto the W/B Interstate 84 on-ramp. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of daylight.

September 13, 2001 1521 hours SE 174th Ave. north of SE Haig St.

Bicyclist traveling N/B on SE 174th St is struck by motorist who makes a right turn into a driveway without yielding to the bicyclist. The motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of daylight.

October 3, 2001 2057 hours NE Fremont St. west of NE 80th Ave.

Bicyclist traveling W/B on NE Fremont St turns in front of passing motorist who is also W/B on NE Fremont St. The bicyclist was found to have a .13 BAC. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of darkness.

November 16, 2001 1026 hours NE Weidler St. and NE 106th Ave.

Bicyclist crossing NE Weidler St at 106th Ave from north to south fails to remain stopped at a stop sign and yield right of way to a motorist who is W/B on NE Weidler St with no traffic control device. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of daylight.

2002

No reported fatal bicycle involved collisions in 2002.

2003

June 19, 2003 2059 hours NE 148th Ave. and NE San Rafael St.

Bicyclist traveling S/B on NE 148th Ave in the bicycle lane is struck from behind by a hit and run DUII motorist. The DUII motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of darkness.

June 25, 2003 0021 hours SE Belmont St. and SE 39th Ave.

Multiple bicyclists traveling W/B on SE Belmont St are struck from behind by a DUII motorist. Two bicyclists are killed as a result. The DUII motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Southeast Precinct during the hours of darkness.

October 24, 2003 1552 hours NE Halsey St. west of NE 126th Ave.

Bicyclist traveling W/B NE Halsey St on the sidewalk rides off of the sidewalk and into the path of an E/B Tri-Met bus. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in East Precinct during the hours of daylight.

2004

May 17, 2004 1546 hours NE Webster St. west of NE 6th Ave.

Bicyclist rides off of the sidewalk on NE Webster St and into path of motorist who is traveling W/B on NE Webster St. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of daylight.

2005

May 30, 2005 0346 hours SE 49th Ave. south of SE Stark St.

Bicyclist traveling S/B on SE 49th Ave contacts the side of a passing motorist and then collides with a parked vehicle. The bicyclist was found to have a .33 BAC. The motorist was found to have consumed alcohol but was not impaired by the alcohol as determined through field sobriety testing and blood alcohol testing. It is most likely that both the motorist and bicyclist share the fault for this collision, therefore this collision is being listed as inconclusive for full assignment of fault.

The collision occurred in Southeast Precinct during the hours of darkness. The bicyclist was operating without lighting or contrasting clothing.

June 27, 2005 0915 hours SW Broadway St. north of SW Alder St.

Bicyclist S/B on SW Broadway St in the bicycle lane apparently lost control of bicycle and collides with the trailer of a tractor trailer combination that is also traveling S/B on SW Broadway St. The bicyclist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Central Precinct during the hours of daylight.

August 1, 2005 1939 hours N. Victory Blvd. and the N/B Interstate 5 on ramp

Bicyclist crossing the entrance to the N/B Interstate 5 on ramp is struck by a hit and run motorist turning from N Victory Blvd to the on ramp. The motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of daylight.

September 3, 2005 0207 hours NE MLK Jr. Blvd. at the 4800 Block

Bicyclist traveling N/B on NE MLK Jr. Blvd when struck from behind by a likely DUII motorist who then fled the scene. The hit and run motorist is at fault for the collision.

The collision occurred in Northeast Precinct during the hours of darkness.