



For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Veronica Vanterpool, 212-268-7474

Nadine Lemmon, 917-767-7698

Online Map of New York State Pedestrian Fatalities Displays Fatality Location with County, Congressional, State Legislative District Boundaries

Makes clear the local importance of funding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure

From 2010 through 2012, 906 pedestrians were killed on roads in New York State. Tri-State Transportation Campaign's online map shows the location of these pedestrian fatalities with clickable layers that display county, congressional district, state senate district and state assembly district boundaries. Viewers can click the administrative boundary layers "on" and "off" to see fatalities that occurred within each layer. Municipality boundaries are also available for Rockland and Westchester counties, as well as New York City council districts.

The release of the map coincides with advocates' and legislators' calls for additional funds for pedestrian and bicycle safety projects in the New York State Budget. The release of the map coincides with advocates' and legislators' calls for additional funds for pedestrian and bicycle safety projects in the New York State Budget. The budget is expected to be finalized before April 1.

"Bicycle and pedestrian safety deserves more than a one-time funding boost which is why a diverse set of groups from around the state are calling for a \$20 million annual appropriation in the state budget," said Veronica Vanterpool, executive director of the Campaign. "Sidewalks, bike lanes, and clearly marked crosswalks for pedestrians deliver safety benefits for everyone who uses the road while making communities desirable and economically viable. This investment makes sense for New York."

"This online map helps legislators pinpoint the riskiest roadways for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists in their districts. With this information, members of the state legislature and Congress can be strong champions for more funds in the state budget and in the next federal transportation bill for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure which is proven to reduce injury and death for all road users," said Renata Silberblatt, the Campaign's staff analyst.

Advocates for safer streets across the state attested to the usefulness of this new tool:

WESTERN NEW YORK: "This is a great tool that local communities can use to leverage support and ensure the safety of all people along our roadways are met," said Justin Booth, Executive Director of GObike Buffalo.

"The Chautauqua County Health Network strongly supports dedicated funding to make walking and biking safer and easier for our residents. Our work in Chautauqua County to improve active transportation options over the last 4 years has revealed that pedestrian injuries and fatalities in Dunkirk and Jamestown are nearly five times the national average" said Andrew Dickson, Built Environment Consultant, Chautauqua County Health Network. "What is more important than the safety and well-being of our elderly and youth populations, which are most vulnerable to these conditions?"

ROCHESTER: "Rochester is in the very early stages of redesigning our streets to make it safer for people to walk and ride their bikes to the places they need to get to. This is crucial if we want to activate street life in our city and improve the business climate here," said Mike Governale, Executive Director of Reconnect Rochester.. "To fully realize this vision we need long-term, dedicated support for pedestrian and bike projects. There's no doing this halfway."

CAPITAL DISTRICT: "The recent fatalities in Albany have made street safety a front-burner issue in our community. Our police and city government are working closely together to reduce these avoidable tragedies, but we can't do it alone," said Leah Golby, Albany Common Council Member, and Chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee. "These maps should be a wake-up call to legislators across the state—pedestrian safety is not just a downstate issue, it is something we all need to be concerned about, and the time to act is now, before anymore tragedies occur."

SYRACUSE: "We are continuing our efforts here in Syracuse to get bike lanes on the most bike traveled street in Syracuse—we have to do something to make it safer for all who ride their bikes and walk. Our City Transportation planner is doing excellent work around the city for bike and pedestrian infrastructure, but it just takes a great deal of time and money," said Melissa Fierke, Director BikeEuclid. "Also, we are finding that one of the most frustrating aspects is the negativity of so many—it is incredibly difficult to engender a bike and pedestrian friendly culture in today's car-centered cities."

STATEWIDE: "If our lawmakers use this tool to see the shocking number of pedestrian fatalities that are occurring in their districts and around the state, they should have no hesitation in voting for the \$20 million for trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks that support safe biking and walking requested in this year's state budget," said Fran Gotcsik, Director of Programs and Policy at Parks & Trails New York, and co-coordinator of New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT). "The elderly, those who cannot or chose not to own a car, mothers pushing strollers, or persons just wanting to take a healthy walk should be able to do so in New York State without risking their life."

"Tri-State's statewide map of fatal pedestrian-motor vehicle crash locations provides valuable information for municipalities, transportation and law enforcement agencies, and advocates who are looking to address pedestrian safety by improving infrastructure, increasing enforcement of traffic laws, or implementing a public awareness campaign," said Josh Wilson, Executive Director New York Bicycling Coalition. "The map will also allow elected officials to better understand where

targeted investments of state and federal funding to improve pedestrian safety are needed in their districts.”

The Campaign’s map for New York, (as well as maps for New Jersey and Connecticut) can be accessed at <http://tstc.org/reports/danger14/index.php#fatalities>

The maps rely upon the most recent data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) as well as publicly available map files from the U.S. Census and county, state and city agencies in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

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The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.