



## SMAC Talk

Speed Management Advisory Cooperative Newsletter  
DECEMBER 2025



*Cooperatively, we can SMAC down speeding!*

### **A Note from Janine**

Greetings, SMAC-ers,

The first snow of the season is gently falling in Spokane transforming the dull browns and greys of late fall into a frosted landscape. It's a reminder that every season brings new delights, challenges, and opportunities, including for the SMAC.

At our December meeting, we'll pause in our strategic planning for managing speed to reflect on what we've accomplished to date, how we function as a cooperative, what's working and what needs to improve, and generally, take a little time to shore up our functionality. Take a few minutes before the meeting to review the content of the meeting packet, think about your individual work groups, and identified priorities, if they have been determined, and what you need personally, and as a cooperative member, to work at your best productivity. Come ready to discuss, ponder, advocate, and organize!

December is often about presents, but really, I'm most grateful for your presence this holiday season. Thank you for your continued commitment to slowing speeds across the state, and for the gifts of your time and talents to address the complex challenges we must resolve. The gains we have already made would not have been possible without each of your contributions.

Happy Holidays to all!



Sincerely,

Janine

Dr. Janine Koffel  
WTSC Program Manager

Please enjoy this month's edition of *SMAC Talk*, a monthly newsletter for and by the Speed Management Advisory Cooperative.

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## [StreetVision Webinar](#)

How Washington is using StreetVision to make roads safer

Join us on **Tuesday, December 2 at 10:00 am PST** for a live webinar with WTSC's Staci Hoff and the City of Kenmore's traffic engineer, Tobin Bennett-Gold. They'll walk through how they're leveraging StreetVision to detect speeding and distraction hotspots, helping prioritize enforcement, validate radar studies, and make smarter, data-driven safety decisions.

★ [Register now](#)

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## Pierce County Traffic Safety Task Force: Safe Streets at the 2025 WA State Fair

102 impaired drivers removed, 1,120 infractions issued, and zero major crashes; an effective day-to-night enforcement model keeping Fair roads safe

### Pierce County Traffic Safety Task Force 2025 Washington State Fair Traffic Emphasis

**Dates:** August 29 – September 21, 2025

**Location:** City of Puyallup and arterial approaches to the Washington State Fairgrounds

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### Enforcement Operations

#### Daytime Strategy (0900-1900)

- Spotter Patrol targeted distracted driving and seatbelt violations.
- Marked patrol cars and motorcycle officers stopped violators called out by the Spotter.
- This proactive model frequently led to impaired-driving arrests originating from daytime stops.

#### Nighttime Strategy (after 1900)

- Transitioned to a dedicated DUI emphasis each evening.
- Focused on impaired drivers leaving the Fair and surrounding bars/restaurants.

### Support & Coordination

- Dispatch, jail, court, prosecutor, and records staff ensured rapid warrant approval, case documentation, and booking.
  - Pierce County Regional Venipuncture Program (law-enforcement phlebotomists) performed most blood draws, providing on-scene, court-ready evidence.
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### Overall Enforcement Totals

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Count</b>
Total enforcement hours	<b>985.15</b>
Total public contacts	<b>1,450</b>
Total infractions issued	<b>1,120</b>
Total warnings issued	<b>503</b>
DUI arrests (all types)	<b>102</b>
Speeding infractions	<b>393</b>
Speeding warnings	<b>107</b>
Using electronic device infractions	<b>245</b>
Using electronic device warnings	<b>37</b>
No seat belt infractions	<b>91</b>
Child car seat infractions	<b>7</b>
DWLS-R (Driving While License Suspended/Revoked) citations	<b>52</b>
Misdemeanor warrant arrests	<b>15</b>

### **Key Public Safety Outcome**

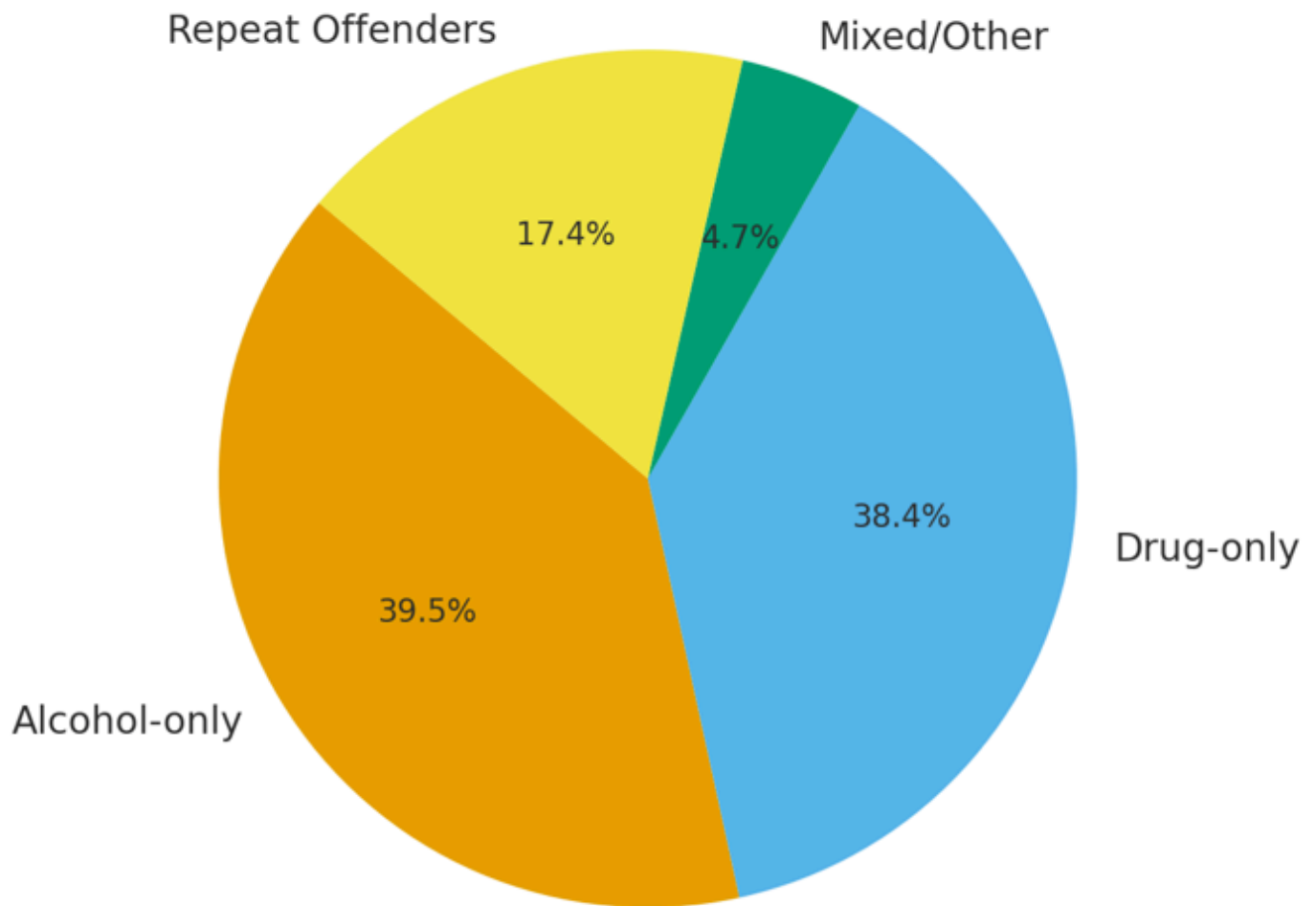
Zero major injury or fatal collisions occurred on streets around the Fair during the emphasis period.

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### **DUI Breakdown**

Category	Approx. Count
Alcohol-only DUIs	≈34
Drug-only DUIs (cannabis, fentanyl, methamphetamine, Kratom, poly-drug)	≈33
Mixed/other (alcohol + DWLS/interlock or unknown)	≈4
Repeat-offender DUIs	≥15 (~20% of total)
Blood draws	≈40 (≈35 by law-enforcement phlebotomists, ≈5 hospital)

### DUI Arrests by Type



#### Key Observations and Illustrative Cases

- **Fair-Linked Impairment:** Many drivers admitted drinking inside the Fair or smoking cannabis on-site or immediately afterward. Several provided high BACs (.13 – .20+), while others showed strong cannabis indicators such as poor lane control and delayed responses.

- **Spotter Patrol Effectiveness:** At least seven DUI arrests began with daytime Spotter call-outs for cell-phone or seatbelt violations, underscoring the value of combining distracted-driving enforcement with DUI interdiction.
  - **High-Risk Events:**
    - Kratom-impaired driver disoriented to the point of fixating on an officer's appearance.
    - Hit-and-run suspect returned carrying counterfeit currency and tested .16 BAC.
    - Driver who drank a fifth of vodka and smoked cannabis intentionally rammed another vehicle during a dispute.
    - Several cases involved children as passengers, resulting in Reckless Endangerment charges.
    - Multiple eluding incidents required StarChase deployment and coordinated containment.
  - **Repeat & High-BAC Offenders:** Roughly one in five arrestees had prior DUIs, interlock requirements, or suspended licenses. Numerous subjects recorded extreme BAC levels, including several above .20.
  - **Forensic Strength:** The Regional Venipuncture Program enabled immediate blood draws, strengthening evidence and expediting charging decisions.
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### Key Outcomes & Public Safety Impact

- **Comprehensive Deterrence:** Seamless transition from daytime distracted-driving enforcement to nighttime DUI patrols provided continuous, 24-hour deterrence during Pierce County's largest public events.
  - **Community Safety:** By removing 102 impaired drivers—including many repeat offenders and several transporting children—the task force directly reduced the risk of serious or fatal crashes.
  - **Visible Reassurance:** High officer visibility and professional phlebotomy reinforced public confidence in roadway safety.
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### Acknowledgments

This operation succeeded through multi-agency collaboration:

- Dispatch, jail, and court staff for fast processing.
  - Judges and prosecutors for expedited blood-draw warrants and charging decisions.
  - Records personnel for meticulous documentation.
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### Closing Summary

From **August 29 through September 21, 2025**, the Pierce County Traffic Safety Task Force executed a **comprehensive Washington State Fair traffic emphasis** that:

- Removed **102 impaired drivers** from the roadway.
- Issued **over 1,100 infractions** and **500 warnings**.
- Achieved **zero major injury or fatal collisions** in the surrounding street network.

This integrated day-night model—Spotter Patrols by day, DUI emphasis by night, and on-scene phlebotomy throughout—proved to be a successful **model for large-event traffic safety and community protection**.

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## Resources

We invite you to share any of these resources with your networks.

### **[See What's New in the 2024-2025 Data](#)**

Stay informed on speeding trends with our dashboards, now featuring preliminary 2024 data: <https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/>. Key highlights: perceptions of speeding risks remain low, and a recent quality check added missing speed limits, reducing 'unknowns.' Use the data to guide your speed management strategies.

We also recently updated our Statewide Survey dashboard in October with new 2025 survey data (<https://wtsc.wa.gov/statewide-survey-dashboard/>), our HVE dashboard also in October with updated quarterly data (<https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/hve-dashboard/>), and our Traffic Fatality Rates dashboard in August (<https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/traffic-fatality-rates-dashboard/>).

For data or dashboard questions or to request a guided session reviewing the relevant data for your work group, contact Max at (360) 725-9894 or email: [max.roberts@wtsc.wa.gov](mailto:max.roberts@wtsc.wa.gov)

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### **Empower Young Drivers to Lead the Way**

Young drivers are at a high risk for speeding. Teens can make a difference in the "Be a Leader, Not a Speeder" PSA Video Competition, part of the Teens in the Driver Seat "Driving the Message" contest! Encourage middle and high school students to show that driving responsibly is cool. The contest is open through February 13, 2026, with submissions accepted in shirt designs, social media reels, and PSA videos. [Click here](#) for more information.

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### **Project Yellow Light: Distracted Driving Prevention Contest**

Project Yellow Light honors Hunter Garner, killed in a distracted driving crash, by inviting high school and college students to create original distracted driving prevention videos, billboards, or radio messages. Winners earn scholarships for their school or associated feed. Deadlines: billboards - March 1, videos/radio - April 1. [Learn more at Project Yellow Light](#).

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## **What You're Watching**

We'd love to share any articles, webinars, or trainings you've recently come across.

### **[Bothell Moves Toward a 20 mph Citywide Residential Speed Limit](#)**

Bothell is moving to lower residential street speeds from 25 mph to 20 mph citywide, a step designed to curb speeding, reduce crash severity, and create safer neighborhood streets for everyone.

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## Thank You

*A special thank you goes to Sergeant David Obermiller (Puyallup PD), Briana Weisgerber (WSDOT) and Staci Hoff, Ph.D. (WTSC) for their contributions to this month's newsletter.*

## Submit Newsletter Content

We'd love to know what's happening in your line of work or local community in regard to speed management, and to hear about any pertinent information that would be applicable to the SMAC membership. Submit any content you'd like included in *SMAC Talk* to Janine by the third Monday of each month.

## Speed Management Advisory Cooperative - Est. 2024

SMAC Webpage

Membership

We Are Patient



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