



# MetroWest Transportation Topics

October 29, 2024



# Discussion Overview

---

- MPO Overview
- Vision Zero
- MetroWest transportation projects and priorities
  - MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- MPO as a resource/Contact info



# MPO Overview

---

- Regional transportation planning
- Project funding
- Long-range planning
  - Needs Assessment
  - Vision, goals, objectives
  - Investment priorities



# Boston Region Vision Zero Action Plan: A roadmap to safer streets



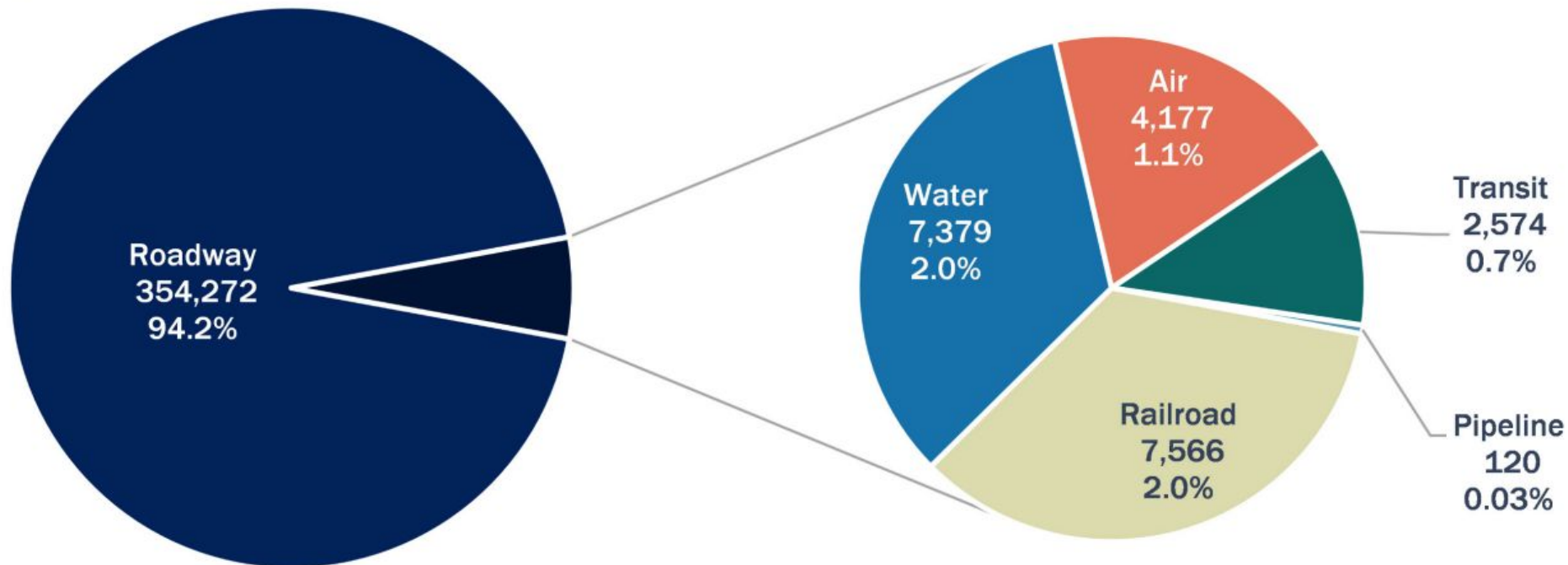
**Ali Kleyman**  
*Vision Zero Project Manager*

# Agenda

- High-level view of safety issues
- Background on Vision Zero
- What is the Boston MPO doing
- Discussion and where we need your input and how you can get involved

# Over 90% of transportation deaths happen on our roads

More than 370,000 people died in transportation incidents over the last decade (2011-2020) in the United States. More than 350,000 of them died on our roads.



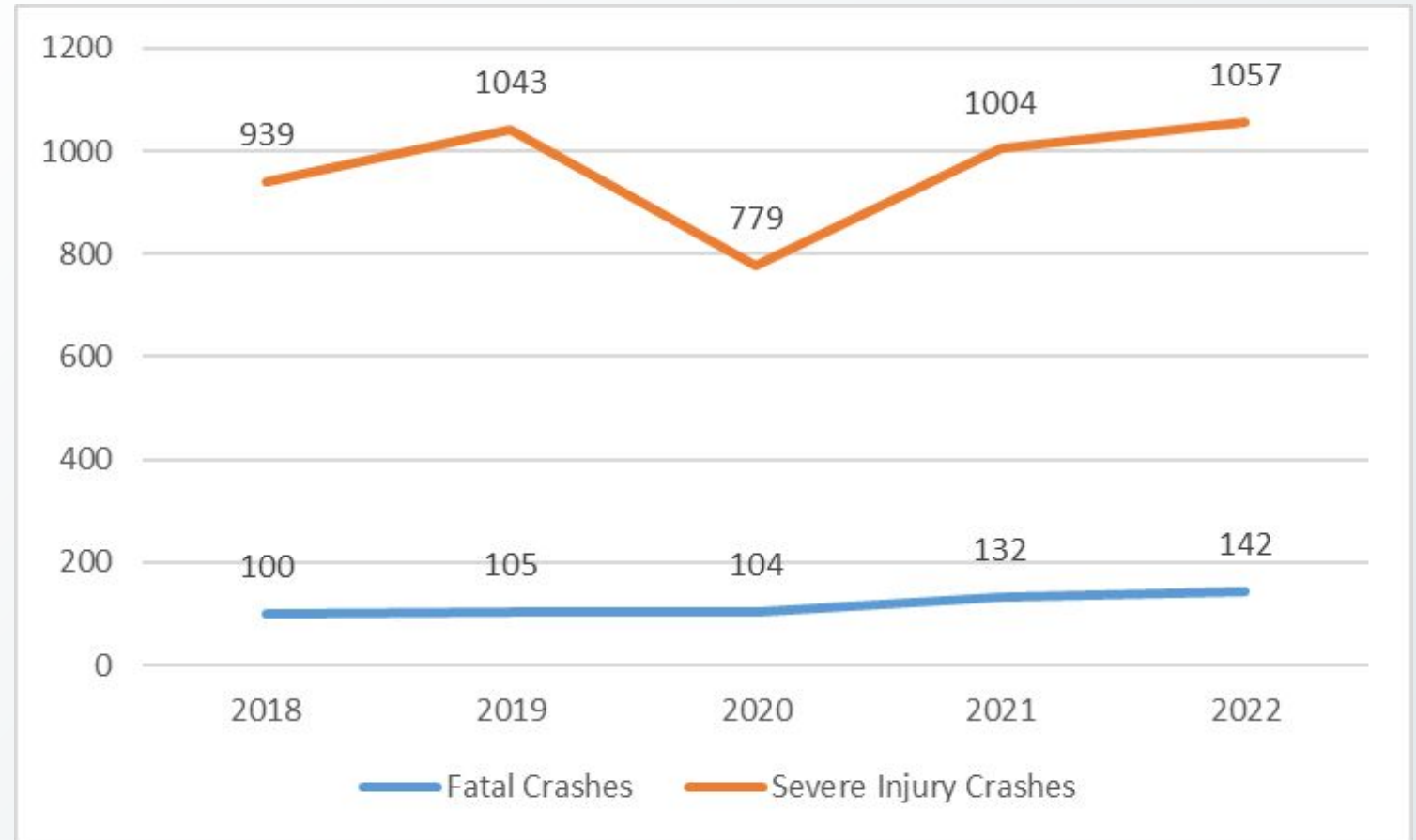
# Throughout the US, deaths and serious injuries remain a problem on our roadways.

- In 2021, the U.S. experienced its highest number of traffic deaths since 2005 – more than 42,915 people
- The number of people killed while walking in the U.S. was 7,624 people in 2021 — an astounding 77% increase in pedestrian deaths since 2010.
- The U.S. still ranks worst in road safety amongst 29 high-income countries analyzed by the Centers for Disease Control.



# The Boston Region is experiencing similar trends.

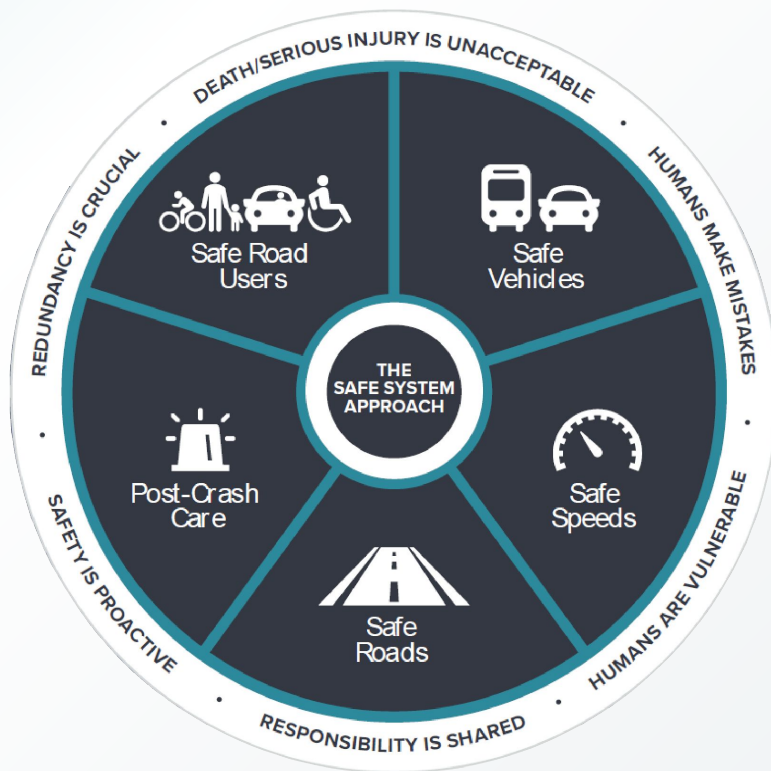
While deaths and serious injury crashes have trended downwards, there have been consistent increases between 2020 and 2022.





# Vision Zero and the Safe System Approach can reverse these trends

**Vision Zero is a fundamental shift in thinking:** We do not have to accept death and serious injuries on our streets as an inevitable side effect of mobility.



TRADITIONAL APPROACH	VISION ZERO
Traffic deaths are <b>INEVITABLE</b>	Traffic deaths are <b>PREVENTABLE</b>
<b>PERFECT</b> human behaviour	Integrate <b>HUMAN FAILING</b> in approach
Prevent <b>COLLISIONS</b>	Prevent <b>FATAL AND SEVERE CRASHES</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b> responsibility	<b>SYSTEMS</b> approach
Saving lives is <b>EXPENSIVE</b>	Saving lives is <b>NOT EXPENSIVE</b>

# Core elements of Vision Zero communities

- **Leadership and commitment:** elected officials commit to working collaboratively to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries. This involves meaningful community engagement and strategic planning.
- **Safe roadways and safe speeds:** redesign our streets and change policies to create safe, well-connected transportation networks for people using all modes.
- **Data, transparency, and accountability:** use crash, infrastructure, and population data to proactively address safety issues and to routinely evaluate the performance of interventions.

# What is the Boston Region MPO doing?

- **\$2 million** for a regional Vision Zero Action Plan
- **\$9 million** to partner with cities and towns to implement demonstration projects to inform the Action Plan (awarded Sept. 2024)

# Activities to Build the Plan

Safety Data  
Analysis

Public and  
Community  
Outreach

Municipal and  
State  
Engagement

Policies and  
Processes  
Review

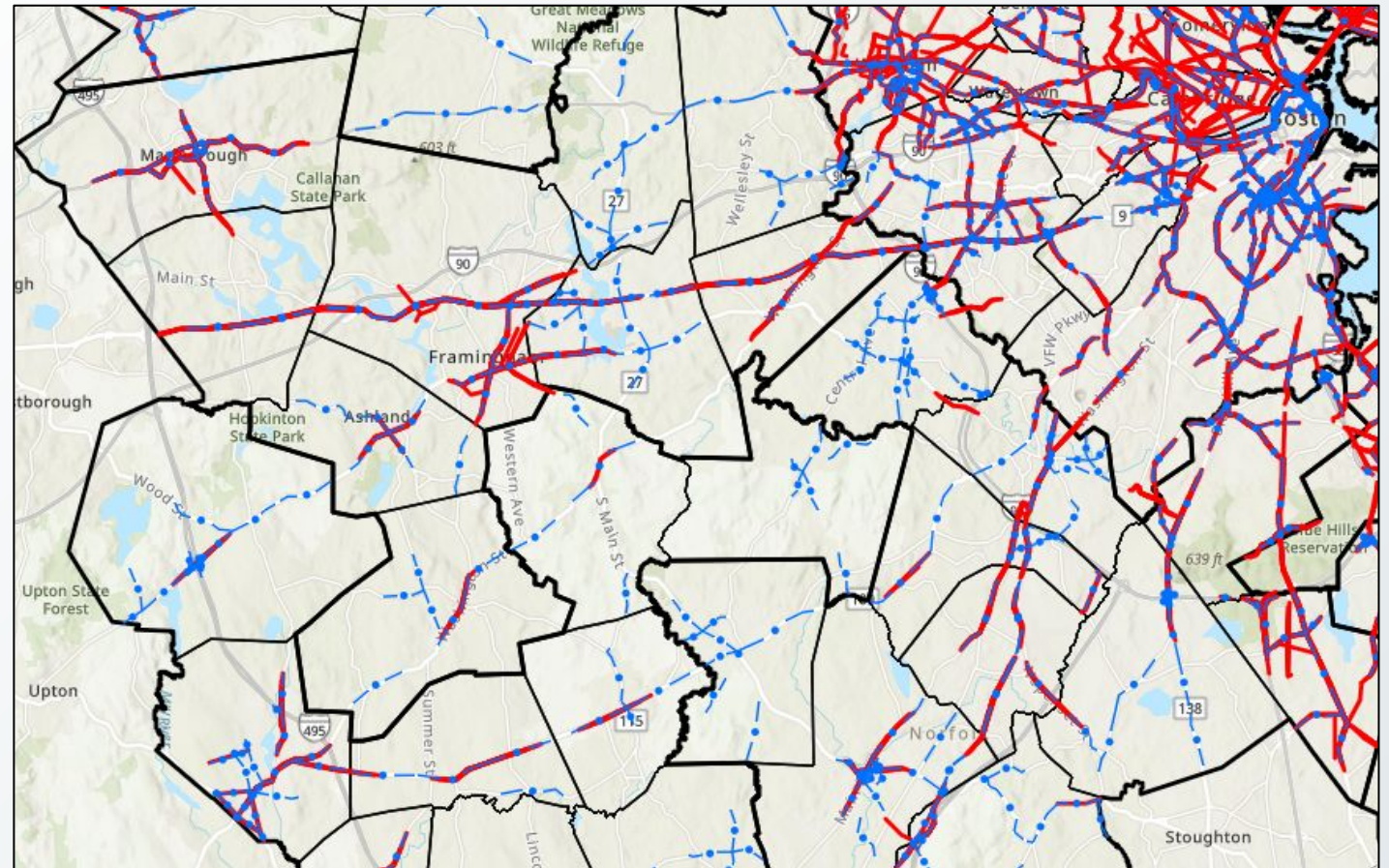
Strategy and  
Project  
Identification

Target Setting  
and Progress  
Reporting



# A key part of the safety analysis is identifying the High Injury Network

- Identifies priority areas for investment at the regional and municipal levels
- Incorporates risk
- Can overlay equity, community input, municipal mode networks



# Initial engagement included municipal staff survey

## Municipal Survey Responses

	Regionwide	Ashland	Natick
<b>Top infrastructure concerns</b>	Poor/missing sidewalks poor/missing bike lanes	Poor pavement condition Poor/missing crosswalks Signs, signals, pavement markings missing or not working	
<b>Top driver behavior concerns</b>	Speeding distracted driving	Drivers not stopping for people crossing the road	Aggressive driving Impaired driving Drivers passing too close to pedestrians and cyclists
<b>Key Challenges to implementing safety strategies</b>	Lack of funding for capital projects and safety programs	Lack of political support Lack of a comprehensive road safety plan Restrictive roadway design standards	

# And a public survey and comment map

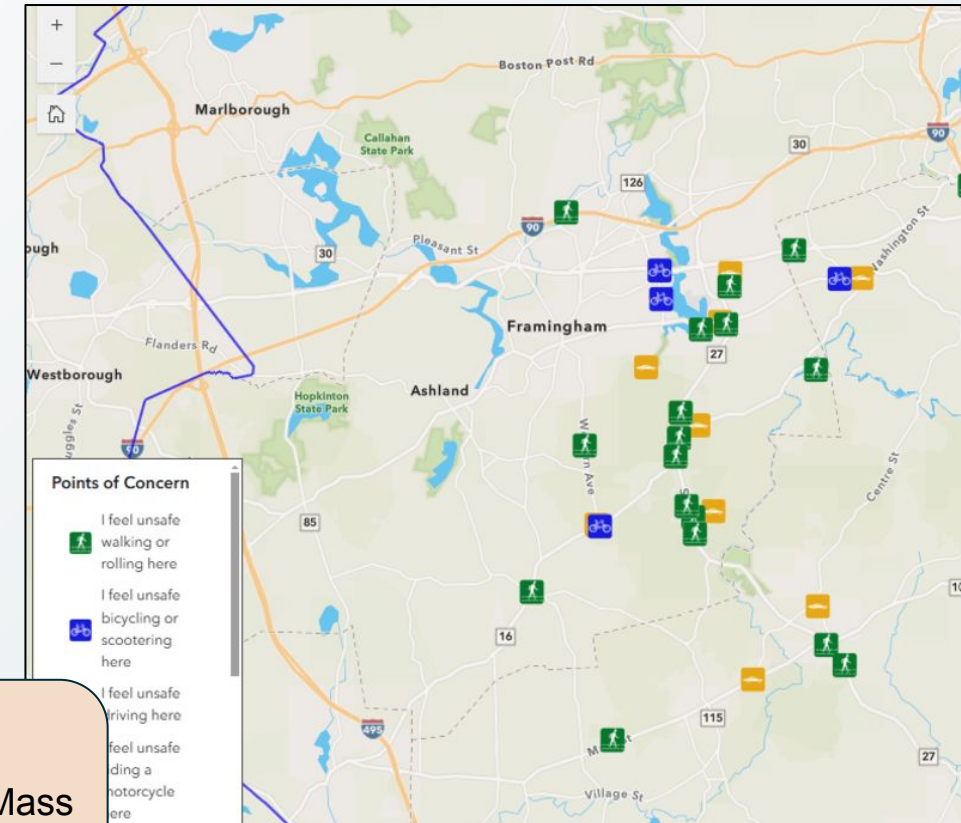
- 200 responses
  - » 7 from MWRC
- Help us spread the word
  - » survey and comment map online:  
[www.bostonmpovisionzero.org](http://www.bostonmpovisionzero.org)

Intersections near Wellesley Square are scary and cars drive too fast.

Around the mall and along Route 9 is dangerous for pedestrians and bikes (Natick)

I would love a broad regional vision for safer streets.

Safer bike connections to Mass Central Rail Trail near Route 20.





# What comes next?





# How can we work with you?

- What questions do you want crash data analysis to answer?
- Where do you see the biggest impediments/road-blocks to roadway safety in your municipality? (e.g., funding, policy, project implementation, public buy-in, etc.)
- Is your municipality doing anything innovative or successful to address roadway safety?
- What types of strategies/solutions are you most interested in?
- How would you like to be involved in plan development?
- Who else should we talk to?

# Please check out our website and get involved

**Public survey and online comment map available at:**

**<https://www.bostonmpovisionzero.org/>**

***Survey will remain open through January***



Thank you!

**Ali Kleyman**  
*Vision Zero Project Manager*

Website:  
[www.bostonmpovisionzero.com](http://www.bostonmpovisionzero.com)

Email:  
[akleyman@ctps.org](mailto:akleyman@ctps.org) or  
[projectteam@bostonmpovisionzero.com](mailto:projectteam@bostonmpovisionzero.com)

# MetroWest Transportation Context

---

- Rather than list projects or themes, let's instead talk numbers



- Changing communities need infrastructure that grows with them.
- We also know that the 2020 Census is not today's reality.



# MetroWest Transportation Context

- In fact, the 2030 landscape may be quite different thanks to MBTA Communities.
- Most of you have heard the feedback firsthand in your Town Meetings, Planning Boards, City Council meetings...
- By definition, the FFYs 2026–2030 TIP is meant to improve transportation for 2030.
  - The MPO is now pursuing new avenues to make funding more effective and viable for your communities.



# Funding Opportunities through the TIP

---

## **Advancing Project Design**

## **Supporting Regional Transit**

## **Enabling Major Projects**

## **Supporting New Developments**

- In FFY 2025, the MPO funded design work in Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, and Sherborn as part of a pilot program.
- In FFY 2026, the MPO will evaluate two further projects, one in Southborough and another in Framingham.
- And in FFY 2027, staff aim to make design funding a core component of TIP applications going forward.

# Funding Opportunities through the TIP

---

## Advancing Project Design

## Supporting Regional Transit

## Enabling Major Projects

## Supporting New Developments

- FFY 2025 marked the first year of Transit Transformation project solicitations.
- The MetroWest Regional Transit Authority and MBTA may now apply to the MPO for funding to advance local and regional transit needs.
- The MPO encourages communities to work with their transit providers to leverage this new resource.

# Funding Opportunities through the TIP

---

## **Advancing Project Design**

## **Supporting Regional Transit**

## **Enabling Major Projects**

## **Supporting New Developments**

- The MPO has approved initial design funding for the Route 126 and 135 grade crossing in Framingham for FFY 2026.
- By supporting this project, and others, the MPO's TIP better aligns with the objectives laid out in our long range plans and keeps large projects moving ahead.

# Funding Opportunities through the TIP

---

## Advancing Project Design

## Supporting Regional Transit

## Enabling Major Projects

## Supporting New Developments

- New scoring criteria prioritizes investments near existing *and* planned housing or mixed-use developments.
- Projects in or near MBTA Communities Zones earn further points.
- Focus on reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled further alleviates congestion, assuaging residential traffic concerns.



# Funding Opportunities through the TIP

---

- The state of the TIP is only as good as the projects funded by it.
- To build a better TIP, we want communities to work with us, to seek funding through MPO programs.
- Based on the FFYs 2025–2029 TIP, we'll see the following in MetroWest:
  - New shared-use paths on Route 30 in Weston, the Bruce Freeman connecting to Framingham, and the completion of the Cochituate Rail Trail in Natick.
  - Safer intersections in Ashland on Cherry Street and Route 20 in Weston.
  - New full-size buses on routes for the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, with the potential for other new facilities.
- There is funding available for even more.



# MPO as a resource

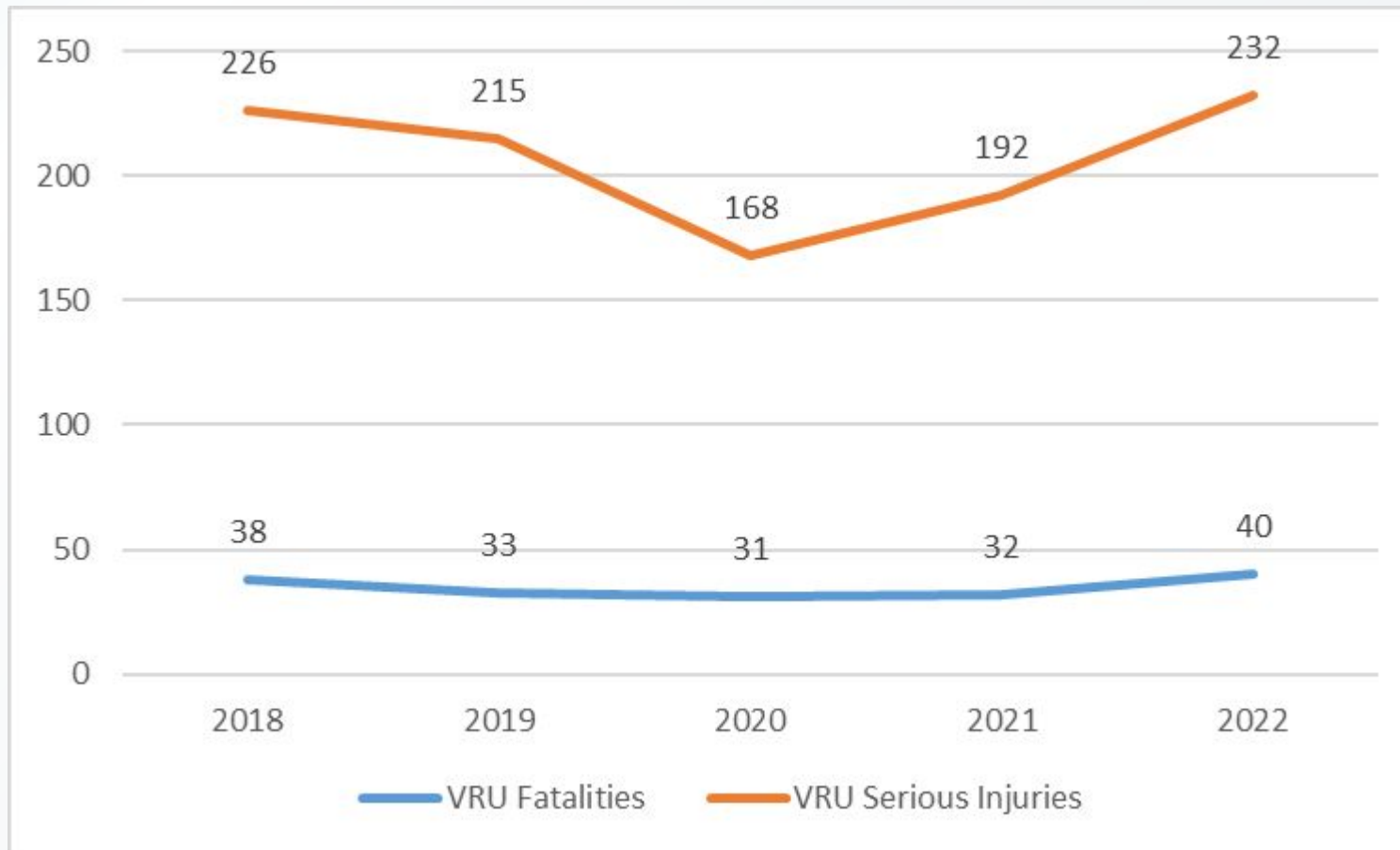
---

- TIP
  - Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2026-2030 TIP:
    - Applications for project funding close 12/31/24
    - Virtual info session recordings available online
    - [www.bostonmpo.org/tip](http://www.bostonmpo.org/tip)
    - *Contact Ethan Lapointe, [elapointe@ctps.org](mailto:elapointe@ctps.org)*
- Design support, policy development
- Technical assistance
- Get in touch with us to learn more and see how we can help you advance your transportation priorities!  
*Stella Jordan, [sjordan@ctps.org](mailto:sjordan@ctps.org)*

# Appendix

---

# Fatalities and serious injuries of pedestrians and bicyclists have also increased in the region.



[MassDOT IMPACT](#)