

# Work Zone Fatalities: A National Snapshot



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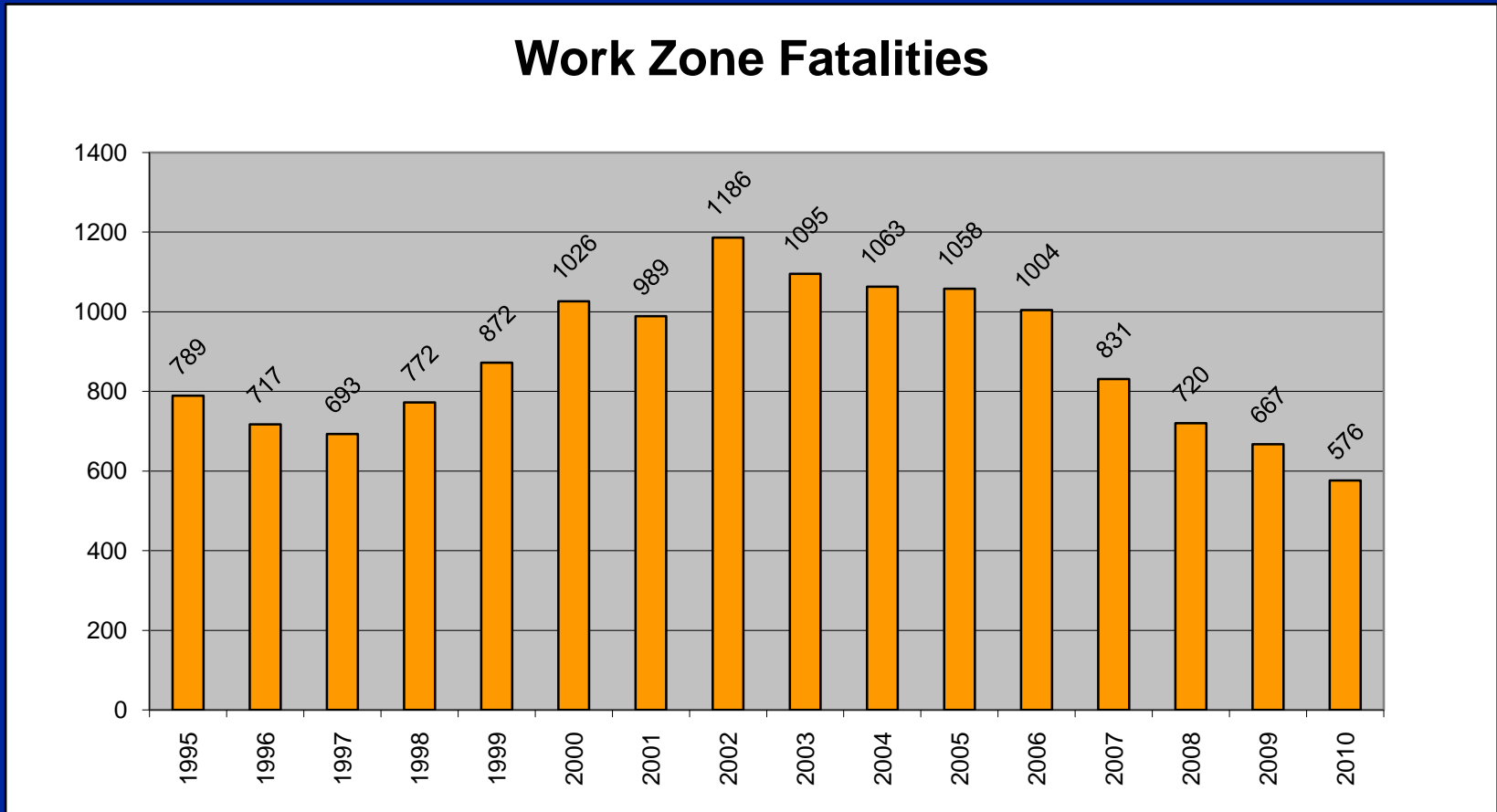




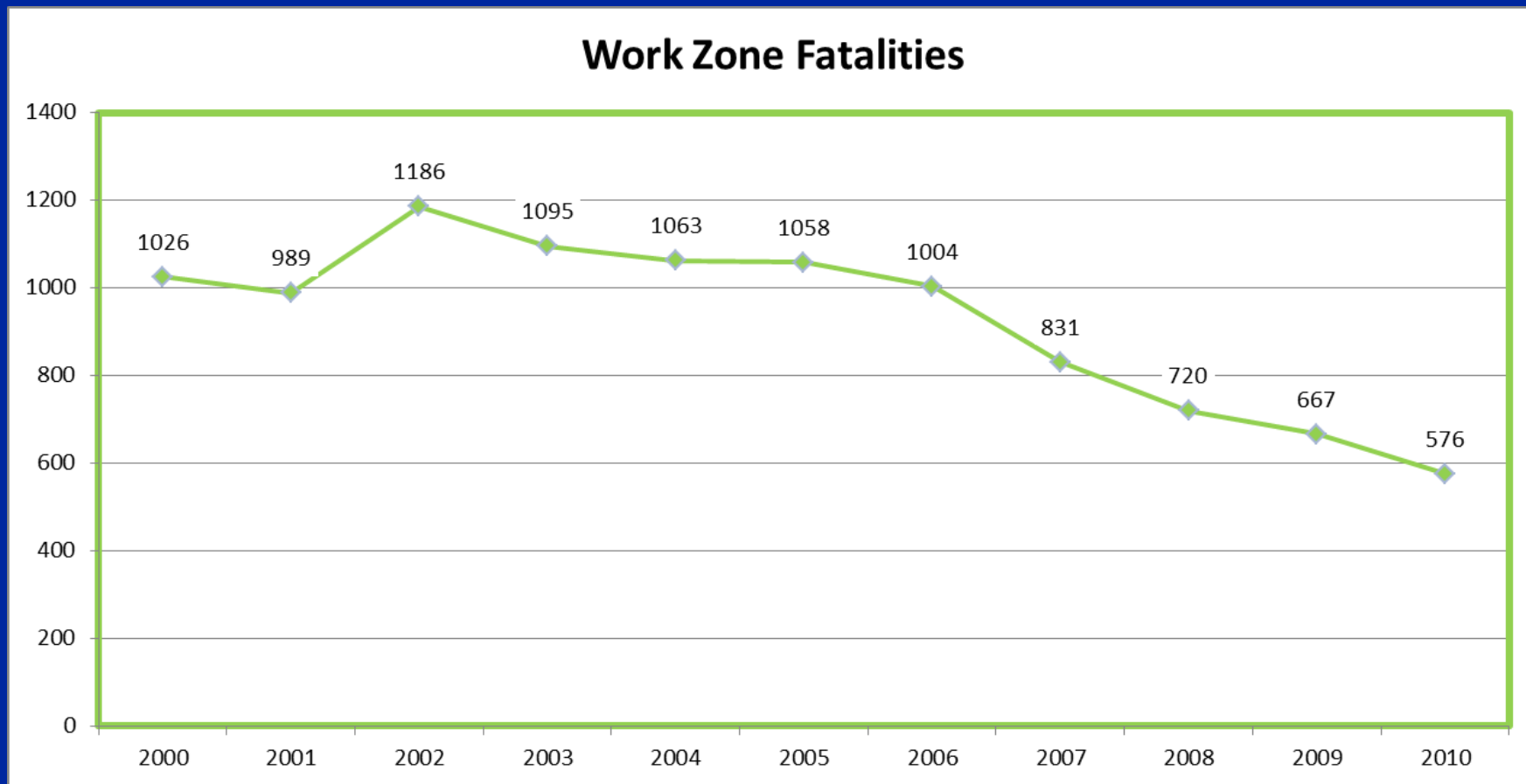
# Work Zone Fatalities Nationwide

- In 2010, there were 576 fatalities in U.S. work zones
  - 13.6% decrease from 2009
  - Continues a 10-year downward trend
  - Lowest number in 30 years

# Number of work zone fatalities has been decreasing since 2002



# Work Zone Fatalities



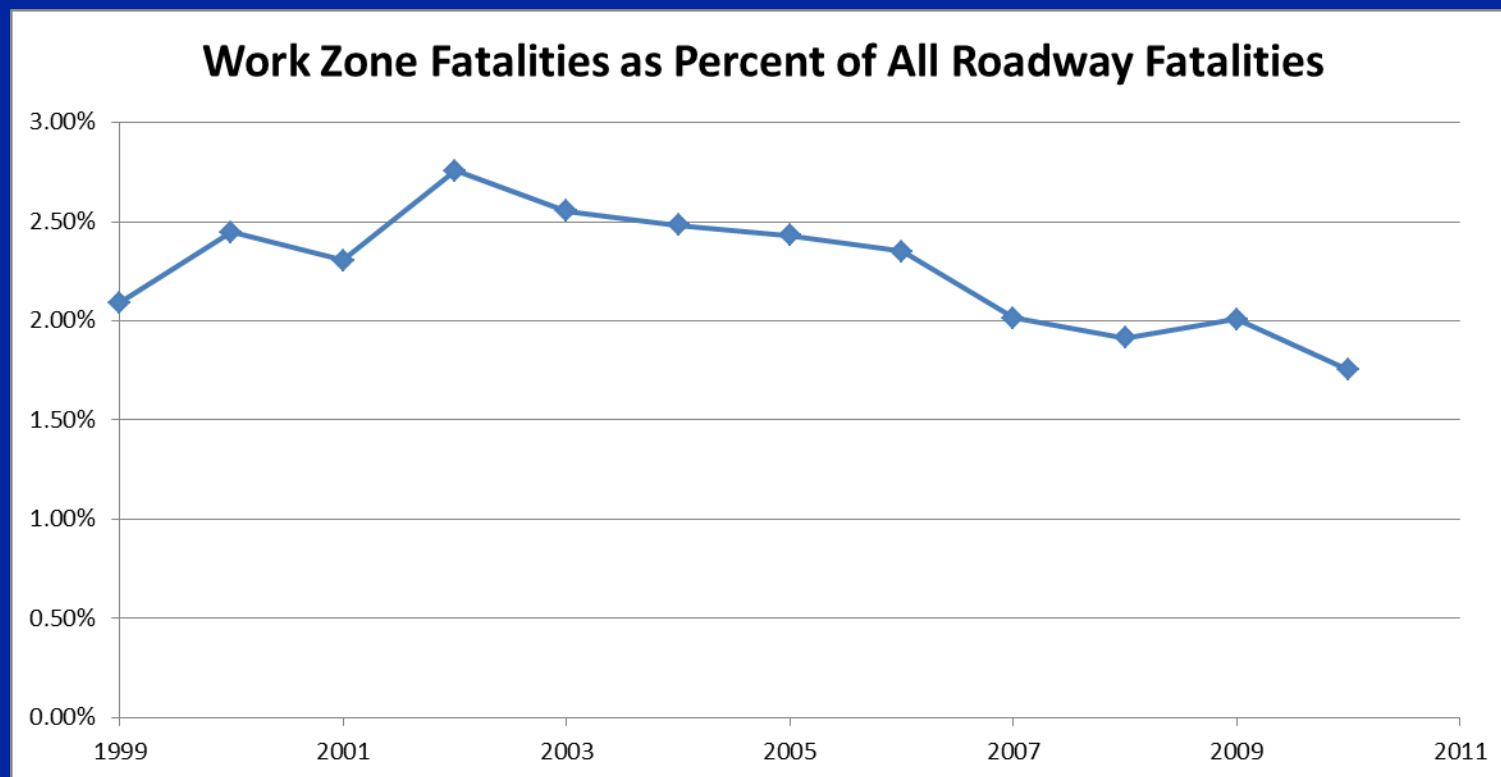


# Work Zone Fatality Snapshot

- Work zone fatalities have decreased...
  - At a greater rate than overall fatalities
  - During a time when VMT has increased
  - During a time when more work is being done under traffic

# Compared to Overall Highway Fatalities

- Work zone fatalities have been decreasing faster than overall highway fatalities





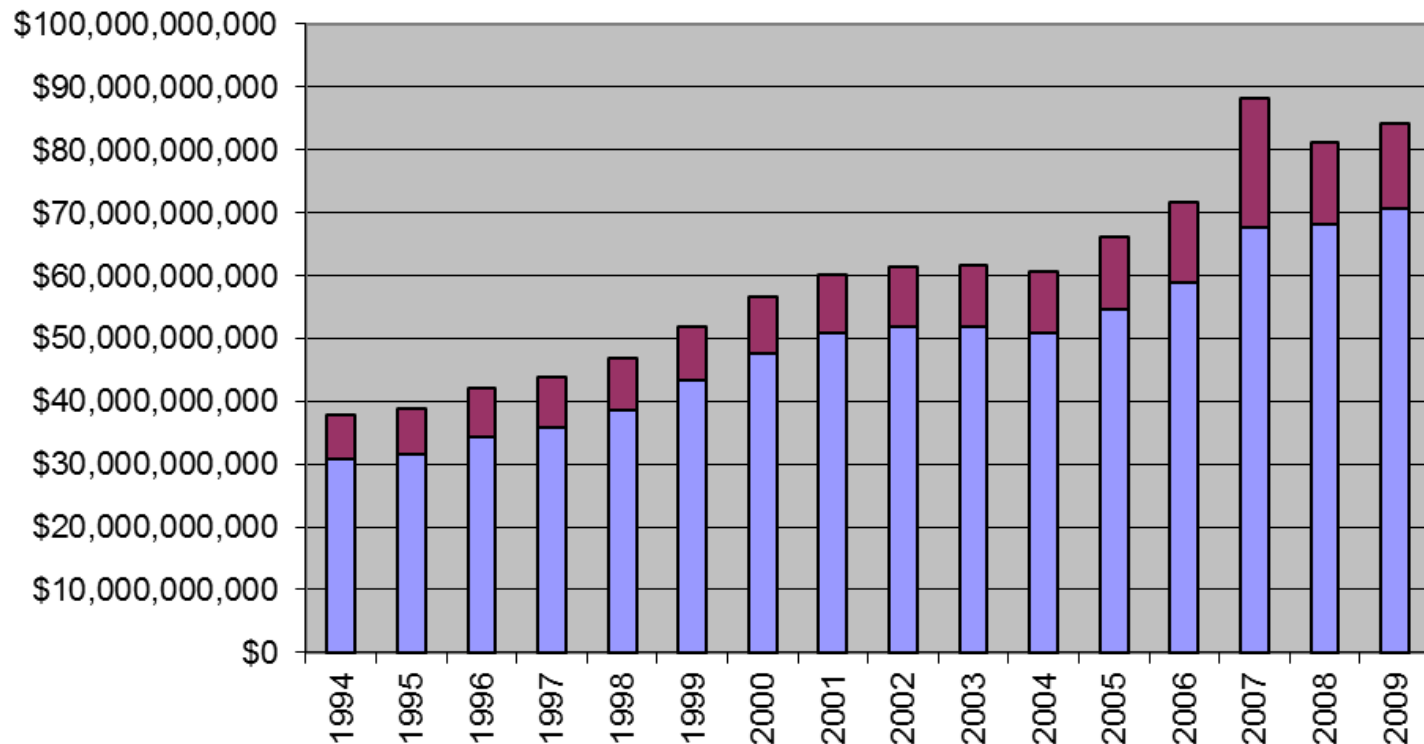
# Compared to Overall VMT

- **Work zone fatalities have decreased while VMT on our roads has increased**
- **Between 2002 and 2009:**
  - Total annual VMT increased 5%
  - WZ fatalities decreased 44%

# Compared to Amount of Roadwork

- Work zone fatalities have decreased while the amount of roadwork has increased

State Highway Agency Capital Outlay & Maintenance





# Work Zone Safety Snapshot

- Fatality data - good place to start, but not the whole picture
- More data available on our website



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the FHWA Work Zone website. The address bar shows the URL [http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts\\_stats.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats.htm). The page title is "Facts and Statistics - FHWA Work Zone". The website header includes the FHWA logo and the text "U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration". Below the header is a navigation bar with the text "WORK ZONE MOBILITY AND SAFETY PROGRAM" and "OFFICE OF OPERATIONS 21ST CENTURY OPERATIONS USING 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGIES". The main content area is titled "Facts and Statistics" and contains a paragraph of text: "A variety of facts and statistics are available to describe and assess mobility and safety in work zones. The information on the following pages is based on the most recent available data and will be updated as newer data becomes available. In some cases the information is based on the most recent analysis of the data, which may pre-date the most recent data. As work zone data collection is improved nationwide as a result of the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule (23 CFR 630 Subpart J), increased data analysis and associated information will become available." Below this text is a list of links: "Work Zone Activity", "Work Zone Delay", "Work Zone Injuries and Fatalities", and "Selected charts and Graphics". To the right of the text is a small image of a traffic jam on a highway. The left sidebar contains a search box and a list of navigation links: Home, About Us, Subject Index, Facts & Statistics, Best Practices, Contracting Strategies, Design & Construction Strategies, ITS & Technology, Performance Measurement, Process Review Toolbox, Public Info Strategies, Regulation & Policy, Work Zone Rule, Work Zone & Traffic Analysis, Work Zone Traffic Management, Worker Safety, Training, Peer-to-Peer Program, and Links. The bottom of the browser window shows the system tray with the date and time: "April 17, 2012 9:39 AM".

[http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts\\_stats.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats.htm)

# Work Zone Safety Snapshot

- Work zones can be dangerous places
- We are seeing significant improvements in work zone safety
- Some likely contributing factors
  - Earlier, more comprehensive planning for work zones
  - Greater emphasis on WZ management strategies
  - Growing use of data to identify and understand the issues
- Need to continue our efforts



# Work Zone Fatality Reduction - Efforts in 3 States

- California – Joe Jeffrey
- Florida – Stephanie Maxwell
- North Carolina – Steve Kite