

April 15, 2015

Law enforcement and transportation agencies review traffic safety information and present awards in Bismarck

Over 150 representatives of law enforcement, transportation, engineering, public health and other agencies from across the state discussed traffic safety at the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Annual Traffic Safety Partner Summit in Bismarck last week, sponsored by AAA North Dakota and Oxy Oil and Gas. The Summit provided an opportunity for traffic safety partners to hear about best practices in traffic safety and trends that are transforming transportation.

The Summit also included an awards ceremony for those who show outstanding service and dedication to accomplish the overall goal of reducing crashes resulting in fatal and serious injuries in North Dakota. The NDDOT Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services, Mark Nelson, and Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle of the North Dakota Supreme Court presented eight individual traffic safety awards including:

- **2015 Officer of the Year** – awarded to the officer who displayed significant contributions to traffic safety through enforcement, training and education for the past year
 - ***Sergeant Nicholas Boys, Ward County Sheriff's Department***
- **2015 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Officer of the Year** – awarded to the officer with exceptional contribution to traffic safety and DRE program in their community
 - ***Officer Colt Bohn, Bismarck Police Department***
- **Beyond the Traffic Stop** – an award to recognize and honor an officer(s) for outstanding enforcement and investigation skills used on a routine traffic stop
 - ***Officer Colt Bohn, Bismarck Police Department***
 - ***Sergeant Nicholas Boys, Ward County Sheriff's Office***
 - ***Officer Damien Girodat, Bismarck Police Department***
 - ***Deputy Casey Yunck, Stutsman County Sheriff's Office***
- **Traffic Safety Honor Roll** – awarded to those who are advocates of traffic safety and promote safety messages to their peers
 - ***Watford City Police Department***
- **Traffic Safety Media Award** – awarded to media organization(s) for support in spreading traffic safety messages in North Dakota
 - ***790AM-KFGO, Joel Heitkamp, Amy Iler and the KFGO News Crew***

In addition to these traffic safety awards, 36 law enforcement officers were recognized for showing commitment to traffic safety in the areas of enforcement, community service, training and public relations.

The traffic safety advocates attending the Summit had the opportunity to learn about and discuss topics such as the trends that are transforming transportation from futurist, Simon Anderson; the impact of traffic safety with the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado from the Colorado DOT; how current legislation may affect their work; low cost safety improvements to risk-based road segments through the Local Road Safety Program; and effective management of traffic incidents on the roads for improved safety.

For more information on traffic safety efforts to reduce motor vehicle deaths and serious injuries in North Dakota, visit www.codefortheroad.com.

Photo: Left to right: Gene LaDoucer ([AAA North Dakota](#)), Officer Damien Girodat ([Bismarck Police Department](#)), Deputy Director Mark Nelson ([North Dakota Department of Transportation](#)), Officer Colt Bohn (Bismarck Police Department), Sergeant Nicholas Boys ([Ward County Sheriff's Department](#)), Orlando Munoz (Oxy), Deputy Casey Yunck ([Stutsman County Sheriff's Department](#)) and Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle ([North Dakota Supreme Court](#))