

Crash Analysis Studio

Session 21: Fargo, North Dakota

September 20, 2024



Today's Panelists

Cody Christianson

Arlette Preston

Tommy Schmidt

Edward Erfurt

Crash Information

- Deborah Hopper was walking north along 13th Avenue when she was struck by a motorist traveling in the middle westbound lane
- The motorist, Abun Gofor, was driving a 2008 Chevy Silverado at the time of the crash
- The crash occurred at 5:47 am on Wednesday, September 13, 2023
- Weather reports tell us it was humid, partly cloudy, and still dark at the time of the collision

Crash Information

- Hopper succumbed to her injuries at the scene of the collision & passed away due to the crash
- The crash report notes:
 - Gofor had a green light
 - Hopper did not have a walk signal
 - Road surface condition was described as dry
 - It was unclear if Gofor was distracted
- No charges were filed against Gofor



3201

Dairy Queen
Grill & Chill
Taste Salted
Caramel Truffle

Westrac Dr

Wendy's
Wendy's Meal Deals

3111

ve SW

13th Ave SW

13th Ave SW

32nd St SW

32nd St SW

3100

ATM (Bell Bank)

Bell Bank, Fargo
Headquarters

Westrac Dr

3D



13th Ave SW



13th Ave SW



Crash Details

- Though there were no witnesses, cameras from a nearby apartment complex gave footage of the crash; media indicates:
 - The light had been green for about 30 seconds
 - Gofor was neither speeding nor distracted by his phone
 - Hopper did not have a walk signal
- The speed limit on 13th Avenue SW is 35 mph; the speed limit on 32nd Street S is 25 mph
- All four legs of the intersection are signalized; there are bus stops on the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners
 - Where Hopper was crossing, the pedestrian walk signal has a 31 second duration.

Overall Site Conditions

- On the east side of this intersection, westbound traffic on 13th Avenue SW has access to four traffic lanes
 - One is a dedicated left turn lane, one is a shared lane for right turns and through traffic; the remaining two are for through traffic
- Eastbound traffic on the east side of the intersection has access to three through traffic lanes
 - West of the intersection, eastbound traffic also has access to a dedicated left turn lane
- Sidewalks and planters are also available on all sides of the intersection, with the southern sidewalk and planter area supposedly used by cyclists



Crash Location Photo
SE Corner



Crash Location Photo
NE Corner



Crash Location Photo
SW Corner



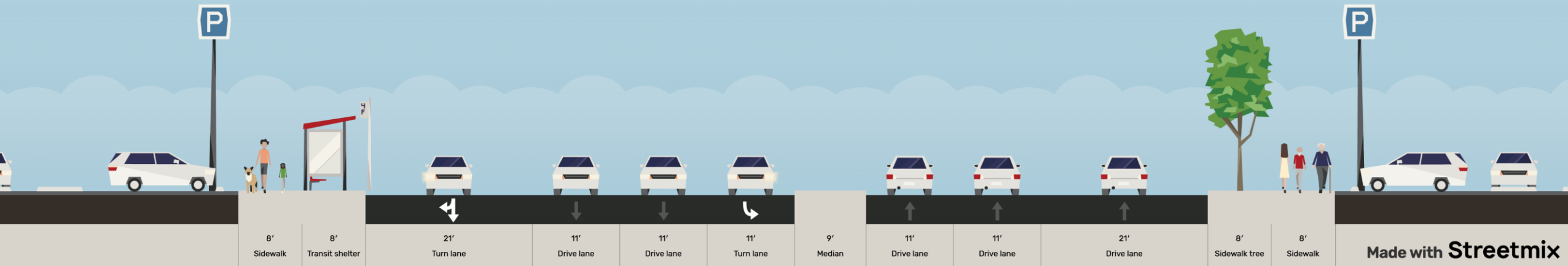
Crash Location Photo
NW Corner



Pedestrian Crossing Part of Intersection

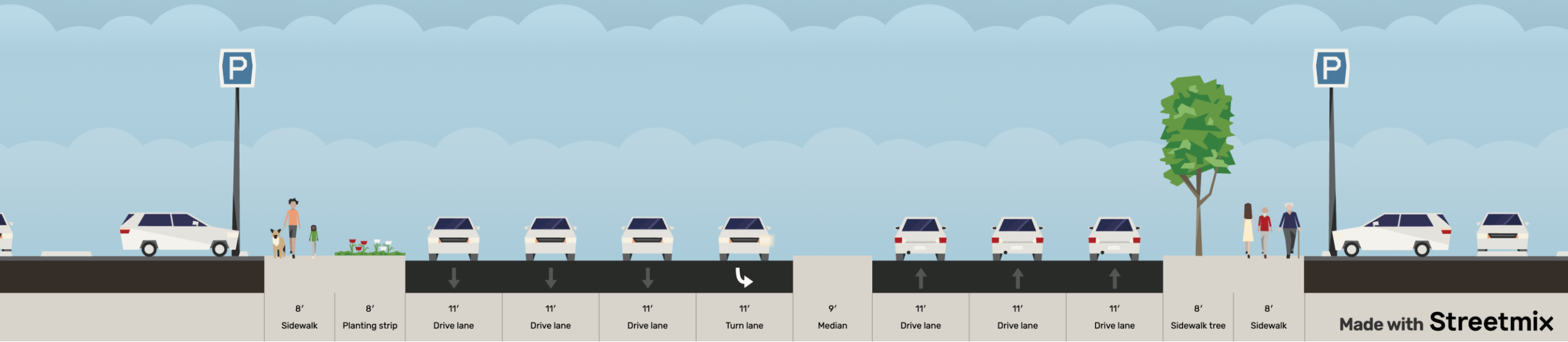


13th Avenue SW (Walking Distance)



Four 11' Wide Through Traffic Lanes
One 11' Wide Left Turn Lane (WB side)
Two 21' Wide Outer Traffic Lanes
One 9' Median
Width Across the Lanes: 106'
Total Width Including Sidewalks and Planters: 138'

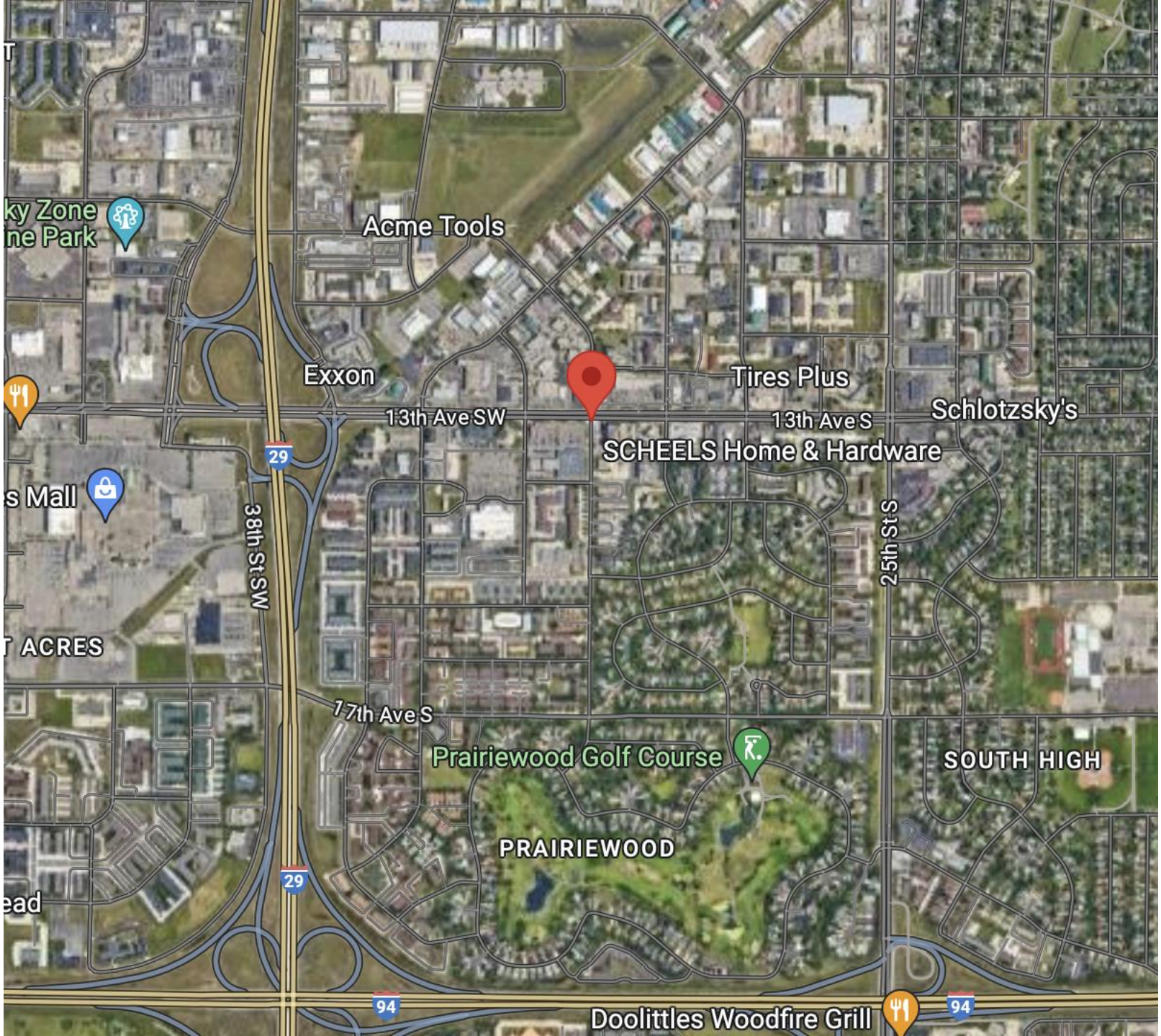
13th Avenue SW (Past Intersection)



Six 11' Wide Through Traffic Lanes
One 11' Wide Left Turn Lane (WB side)
One 9' Median
Width Across the Lanes: 86'
Total Width Including Sidewalks and Planters: 118'

Overall Site Conditions

- Suburban development pattern with a mixture of residential properties and commercial businesses
- Interstate 29 is located about a half mile west of this intersection; Interstate 94 is south of the intersection, just a bit further away than I-29
- Several neighborhoods – like Prairiewood and South High – are accessible to the south and east of the intersection
- There are fast food restaurants, apartment complexes, service providers, and other types of businesses in the immediate area



ky Zone
ne Park

Acme Tools

Exxon

Tires Plus

Schlotzsky's

13th Ave SW

13th Ave S

SCHEELS Home & Hardware

s Mall

38th St SW

25th St S

T ACRES

17th Ave S

Prairiewood Golf Course

SOUTH HIGH

PRAIRIEWOOD

ead

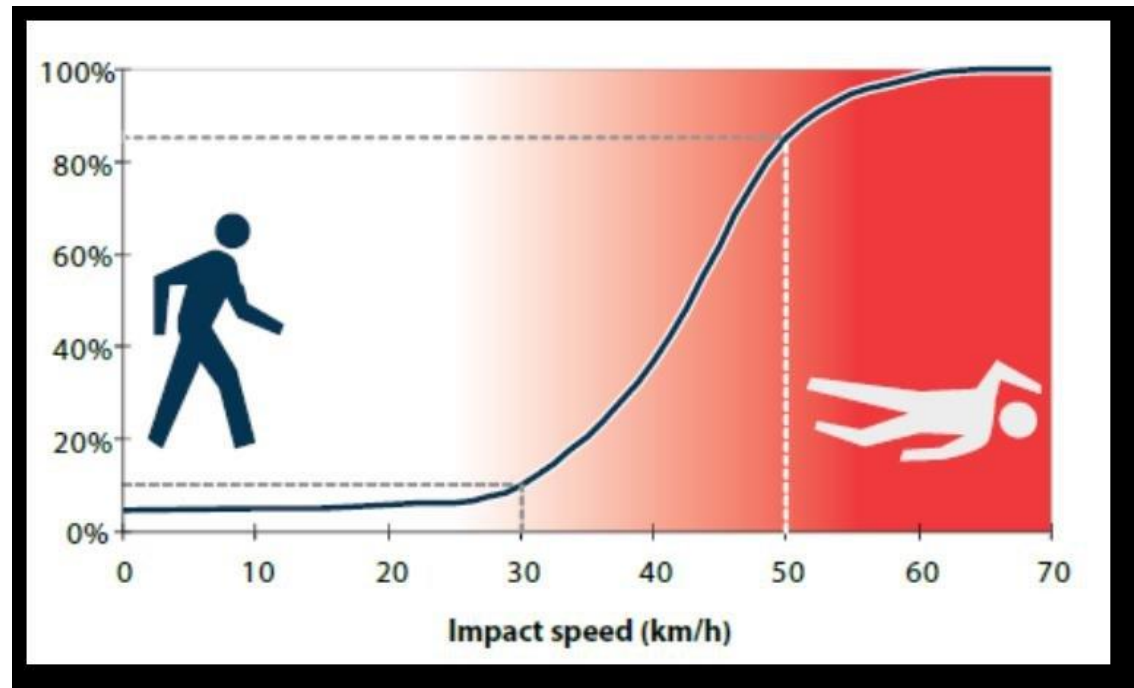
Doolittles Woodfire Grill

Overall Site Conditions

- Preliminary Speed Study indicates significant number of automobiles traveling at fatal speeds

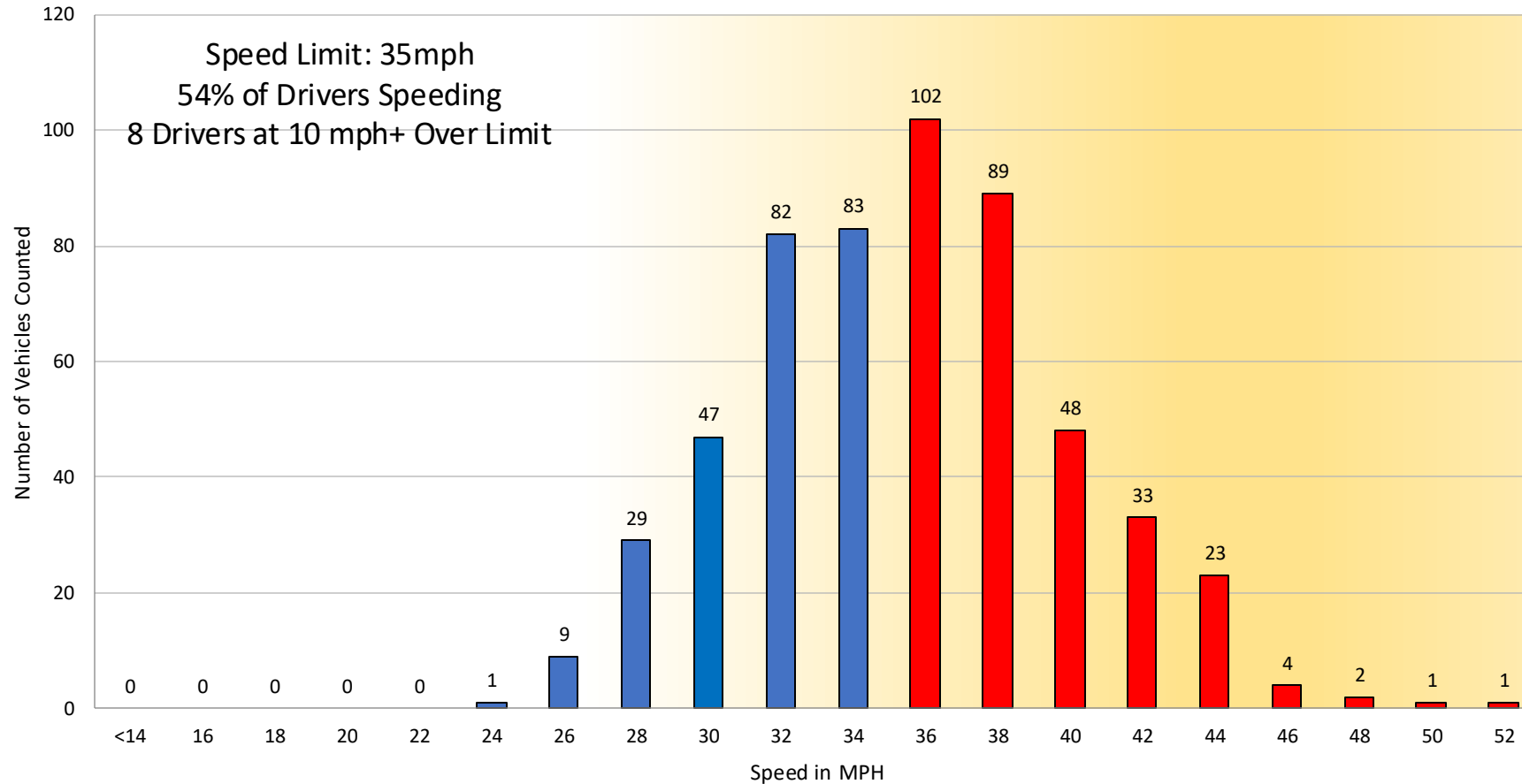
The effects of higher speed limits on traffic fatalities in the United States, 1993–2017.

-Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



Speed Data

13th Avenue SW - Fargo, North Dakota
Number of Vehicles Driving at Each Speed



554 cars tracked
85th percentile speed: 40 mph

Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

- Thank you to our panelists – Arlette, Cody, Tommy, and Edward
- Special thanks to Arlette Preston and her colleagues for help with gathering resources
- Fargo community members who have supported with preparation and who showed up today
- Strong Towns Staff

Reminders

- October 15th – Press Conference & Key Lessons Report
 - Reach out to press@strongtowns.org with questions
- Visit our [site](#) to get access to our free “Starting your Own Crash Analysis Studio” Course
- Check out our form online to bring staff to your area for an in-person training