

NEWS RELEASE

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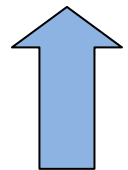
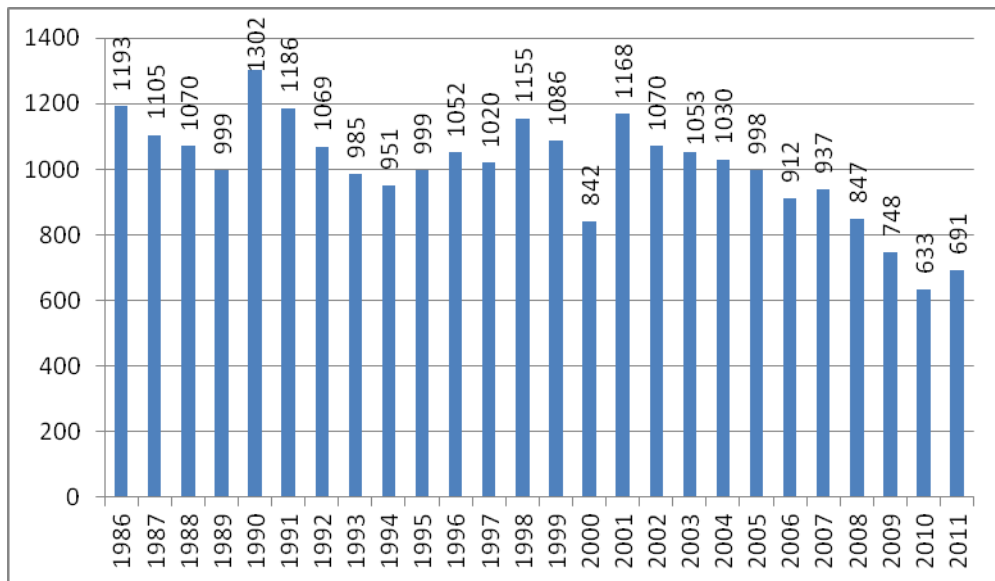
Thursday, January 26, 2012

2011 Petaluma Traffic Safety Report Collisions Rise First Time in 5 Years

The 2011 annual review of traffic safety in Petaluma is showing promising results that enforcement of vehicle code violations, effective traffic engineering solutions, and a strong public awareness and education campaign are working to improve safety on the streets of Petaluma. The annual review assists enforcement officers, engineers, and City policy makers in identifying collision trends and locations so that enforcement, engineering, and education solutions and resources can be used to reduce the crashes.

Collisions in 2010 have set an all new record low not seen in Petaluma since before 1986 when the Department began to maintain annual traffic collision statistics. There were 633 traffic collisions last year, down more than 36% from the yearly average of almost 1000 collisions just 5 years ago.

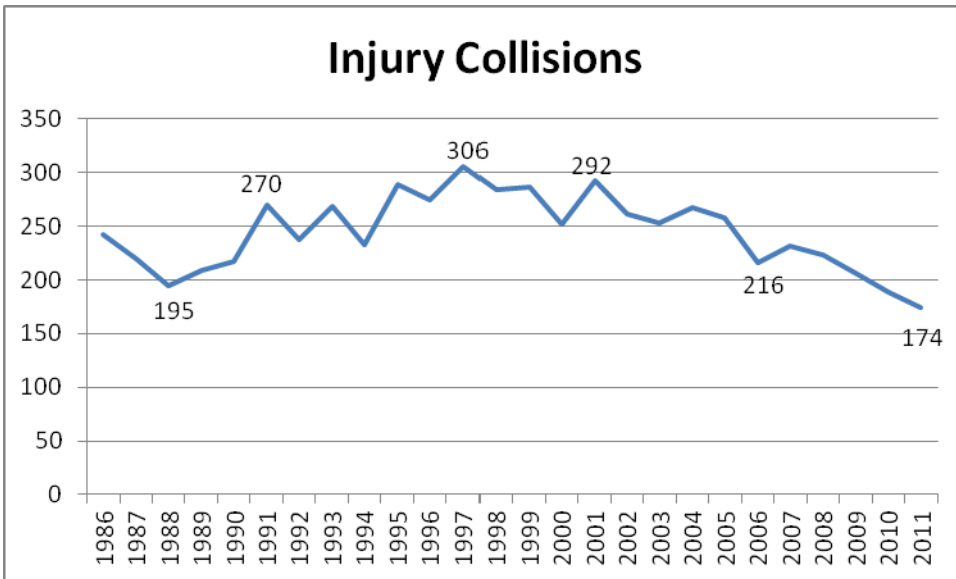
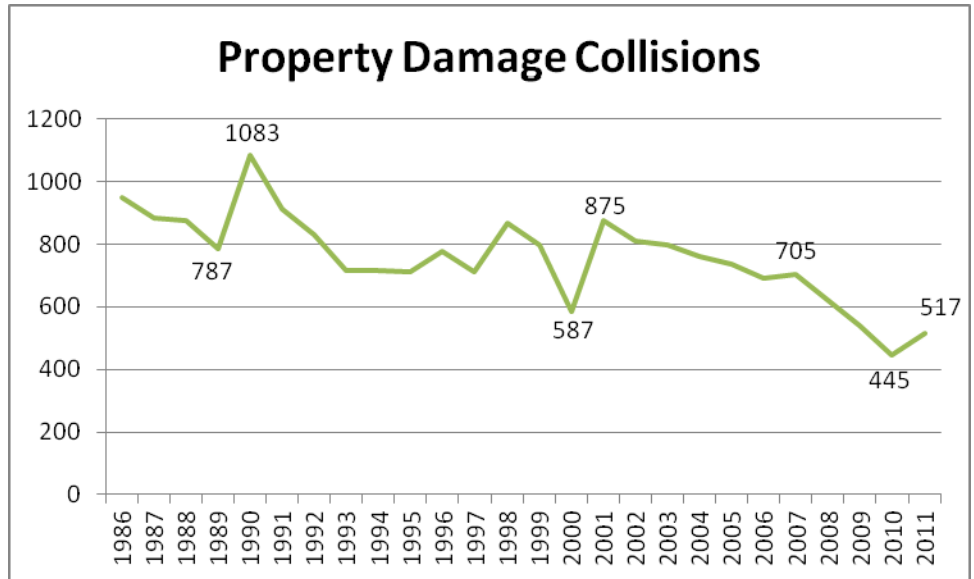
City of Petaluma Traffic Collisions 1986-2011



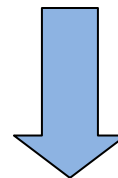
Collision History 1986 to 2011

Since 1986, there have been 26,102 collisions. Over the last 25 years, 40 people were killed on Petaluma roadways which is just over one tenth of one percent (.1%) of all collisions. In the same time period there have been 6,352 injury collisions representing 24.3% of all collisions. The remaining 19,709 collisions involved property damage only representing 75.5%. Since 1986, the yearly average number of collisions has been 1,044 and is a decrease of 60 collisions over the average last year. In the last 5 years that average has dropped to 846 to 771.

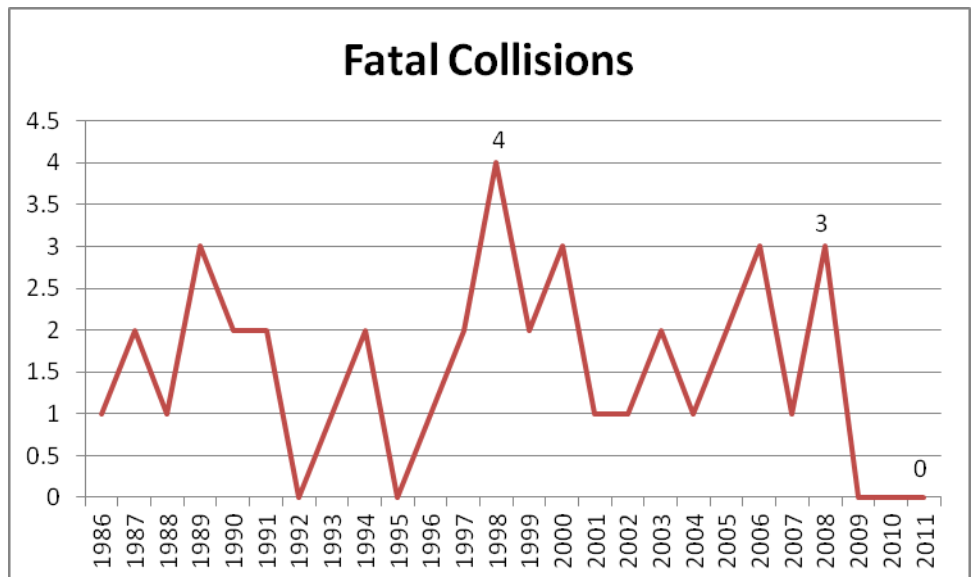
Property damage only collisions increased by 16% from the 2010 total of 445 collisions to 517 in 2011.



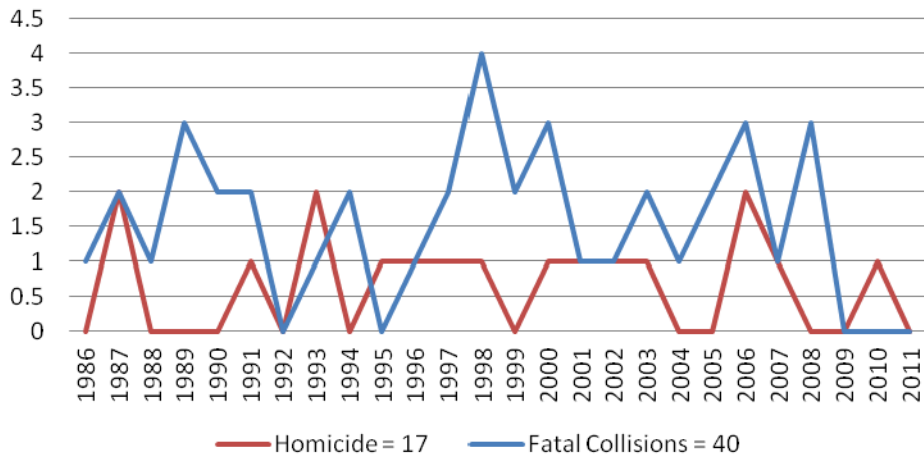
Injury collisions decreased by 7% from the 2010 total of 188 collisions to 174 in 2011.



Fatal collisions remained at 0 for the third year in a row. There have been no fatal collisions in 2009, 2010, and 2011. The last fatal collision was a DUI crash in November 2008 when a passenger was killed when the DUI driver collided with a tree on North McDowell Blvd. The annual average fatal crash rate since 1986 is 1.6 fatal crashes per year.



Crime vs. Crashes in 25 Years

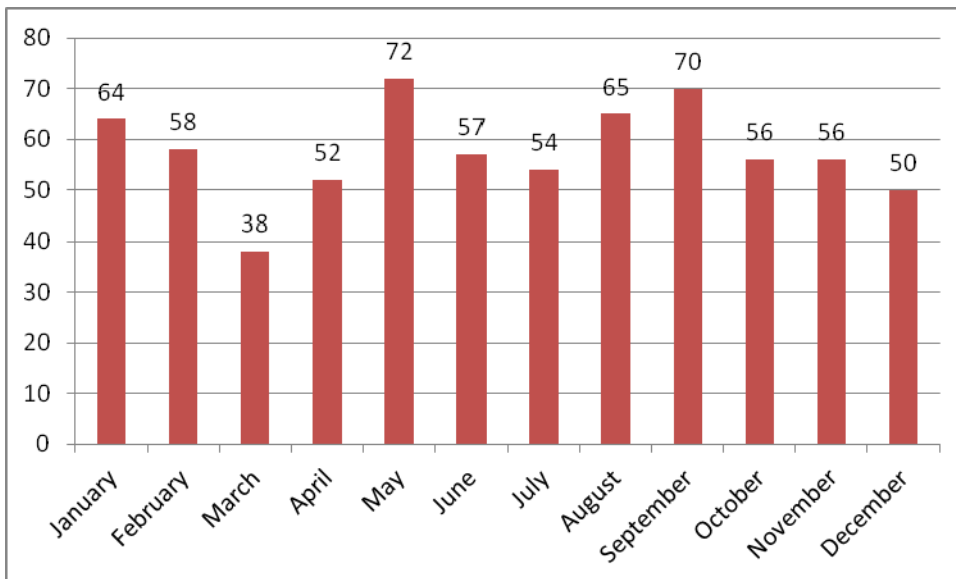


In the last 25 years 57 people have been killed in Petaluma. Of the 57 people killed, 29.8% were killed in criminal confrontations and 70.2% were killed in fatal traffic collisions on Petaluma city streets.

2011 Collision Summary

In 2011 traffic collisions increased by 9% from the 2010 total of 633 to 691 in 2011. None of the collisions in 2011 involved a fatality. Injury collisions decreased by 7.4% from the 2010 total of 188 to 174 in 2011. Property damage only collision increased by 16% from the 2010 total of 445 to 517 in 2011. The following charts and information look more closely at the 2011 collision data.

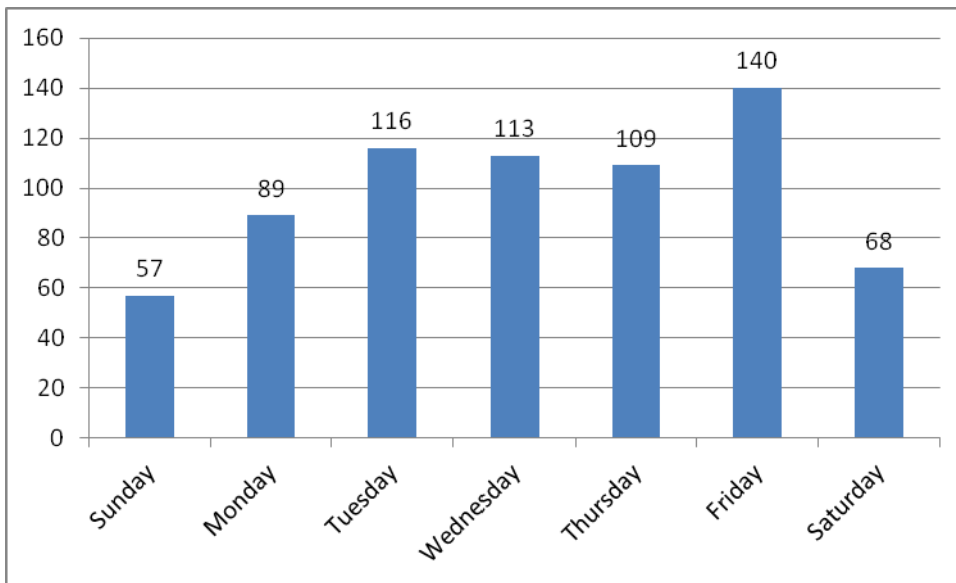
2011 Collisions by Month



Top 5 Months of Year

1. May
2. September
3. August
4. January
5. June

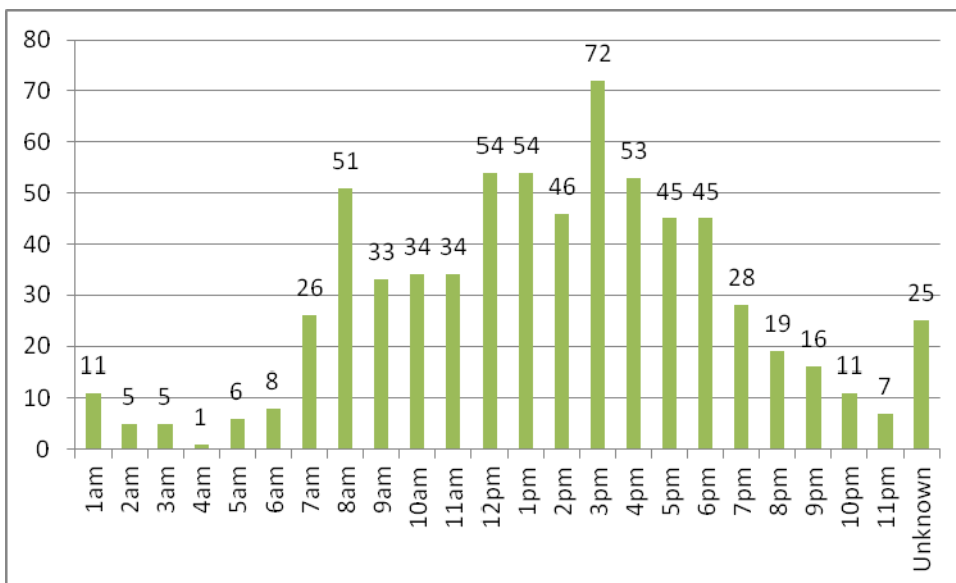
2011 Collisions by Day of Week



Top 5 Days of Week

1. Friday
2. Tuesday
3. Wednesday
4. Thursday
5. Monday

2011 Collisions by Hour of the Day



Top 5 Hours of Day

1. 3pm
2. 12pm
3. 1pm
4. 4pm
5. 8am

2011 Collisions by Cause

Primary Collision Factor (Cause)	2010 Collisions	Percentage of Collisions
1. Unsafe Speed	147	22.41%
2. Auto Right of Way	109	16.62%
3. Improper Turning	101	15.40%
4. Unsafe Starting or Backing	63	9.60%
5. Driving Under the Influence	50	7.62%
6. Unknown Cause	50	7.62%
7. Other Improper Driving	24	3.66%
8. Traffic Signals and Signs	18	2.74%
9. Other Than Driver	17	2.59%
10. Unsafe Lane Change	15	2.29%

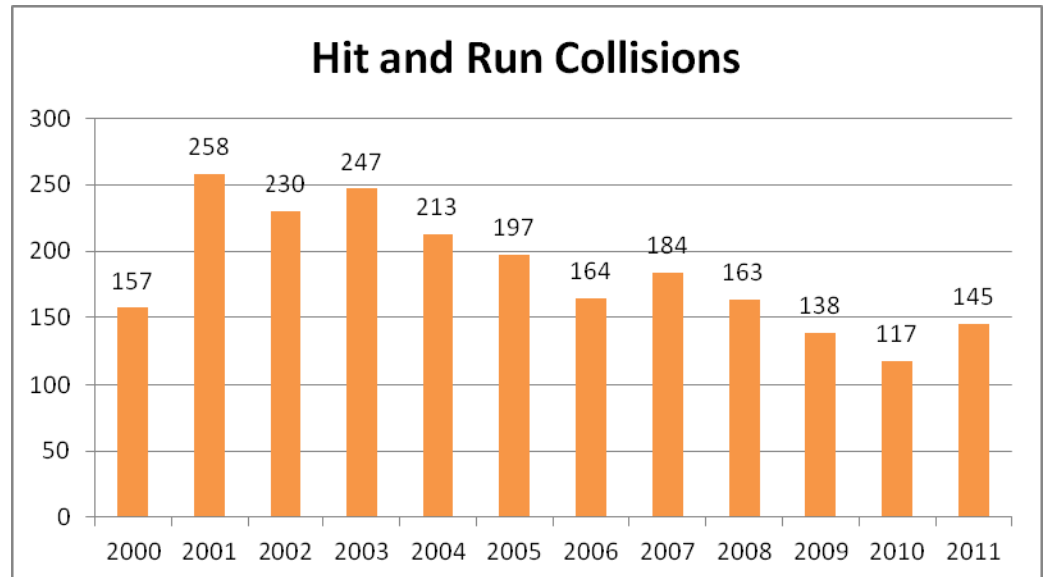
2011 Top 10 Collision Intersections

Intersection	Collisions
1. East Washington Street at Lakeville Street	10
2. East Washington at North McDowell Blvd	9
3. East Washington Street at Payran Street	8
4. Petaluma Blvd North at Western Avenue	8
5. D Street at 4 th Street	6
6. Keller Street at Washington Street	6
7. Lakeville Street at East D Street	6
8. Petaluma Blvd North at Washington Street	6
9. Petaluma Blvd South at B Street	6
10. East Washington Street @ Sonoma Mountain Pkwy/Ely Blvd	5

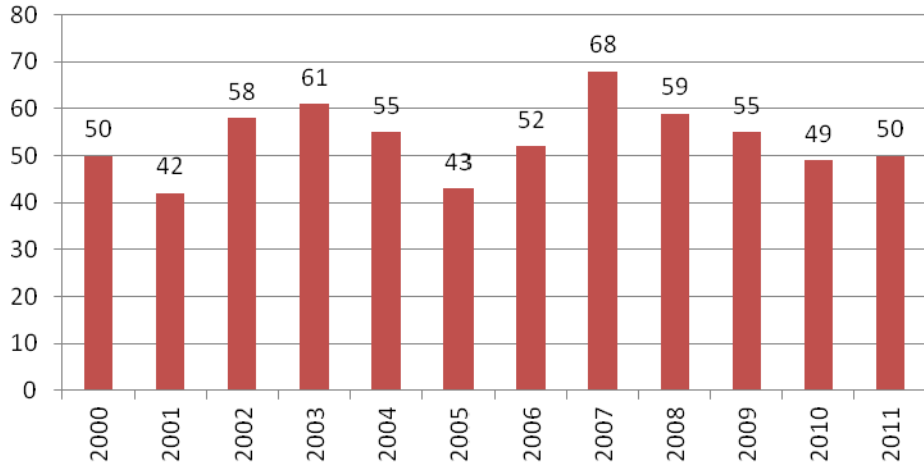
2011 Top 5 Collision Mid-Block Locations

Intersection	Collisions
1. Petaluma Blvd from Western Avenue to Washington Street	8
2. Petaluma Blvd from US101 to Stony Point Road	7
3. Petaluma Blvd S from B Street to C Street	5
4. East Washington Street from Maria Dr to McDowell Blvd	4
5. Payran Street from Caulfield Lane to Lindberg Lane	3

Hit and run collisions increased by 24% from the 2010 total of 117 collisions to 145 in 2011



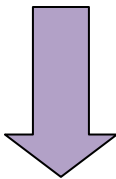
Alcohol Involved Collisions



DUI collisions increased by 2% from the 2010 total of 49 collisions to 50 in 2011



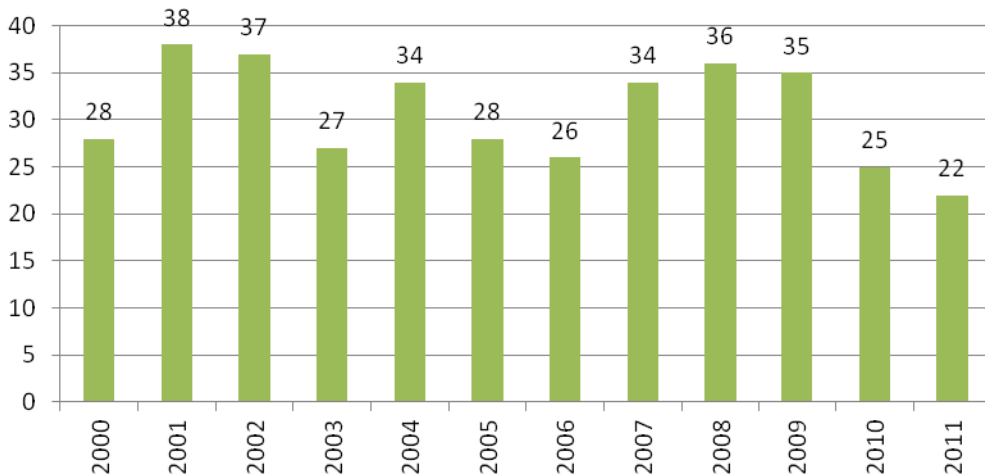
Pedestrian collisions decreased by 30% from the 2010 total of 26 collisions to 18 in 2011.



Pedestrian Collisions



Bicycle Collisions



Bicycle collisions decreased by 12% from the 2010 total of 25 collisions to 22 in 2011.



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OTS Projects AL1197, AL0982, CT11313 and SC11313

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