COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

Office of the

SECRETARY *of* TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Safety Performance
2026 Safety Measures

June 24, 2025

Federal Safety Target Setting

- Background on target setting requirements
- Statewide trends of safety performance
- Potential federal target setting approaches
- Results and recommendations from each approach
- Proposed 2026 federal safety targets
- Next steps

Background
Safety Performance Management Requirements

- Code of Virginia § 2.2-229 – CTB to establish performance targets for surface transportation
- Federal law requires performance targets for safety (5 measures)
- Safety targets must be set annually for the next calendar year
- VDOT and Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) Highway Safety Office (HSO) coordinate on 3 of the 5 performance measures
  - DMV must report targets to NHTSA by August 1
  - VDOT must report targets to FHWA by August 31

NHTSA - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

Background
Safety Performance Management Federal Measures

- **Number of fatalities* -** person involved died at scene or within 30 days
- **Rate of fatalities* -** per 100M vehicle miles traveled
- **Number of serious injuries* -** suspected serious injury, typically taken to hospital
- **Rate of serious injuries -** per 100M vehicles miles traveled
- **Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries -** bicyclists and pedestrians

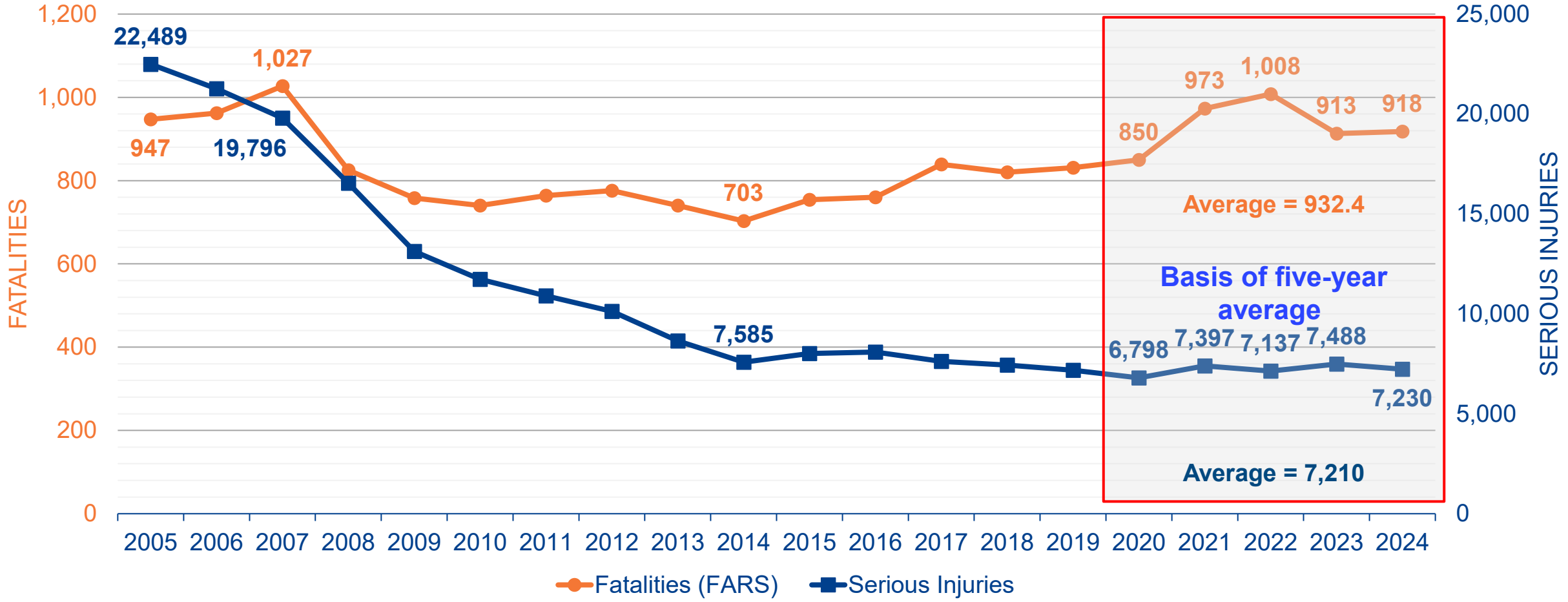
* Three federal measures requiring coordination and consistency with the DMV HSO

Background
New Federal Target Setting Requirements

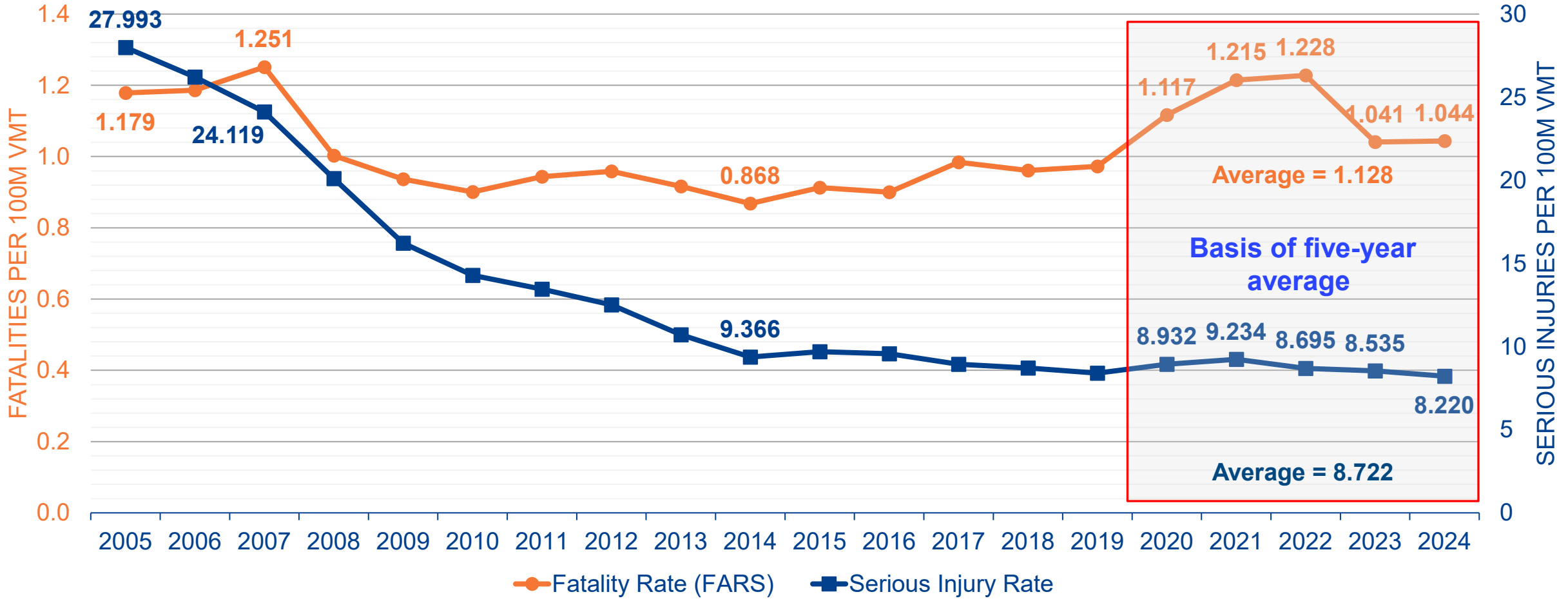
- Annual federal reporting for DMV and VDOT requires submission of annual and calculated five-year average targets
- The 2021 BIL (IIJA) requires that States set safety targets that demonstrate **level or improved performance** for the three common measures (fatalities, fatality rate, and serious injuries)
  - The 2026 five-year average target for each measure when averaged with the preceding four years must be level or improved when compared to the most recent five-year average (baseline)
    - Baseline = the average of the actual performance values from 2020-2024
    - 2026 five-year average target = three years of actual performance values from 2022-2024 along with projections for 2025 and the proposed 2026 annual target

BIL – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
IIJA – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

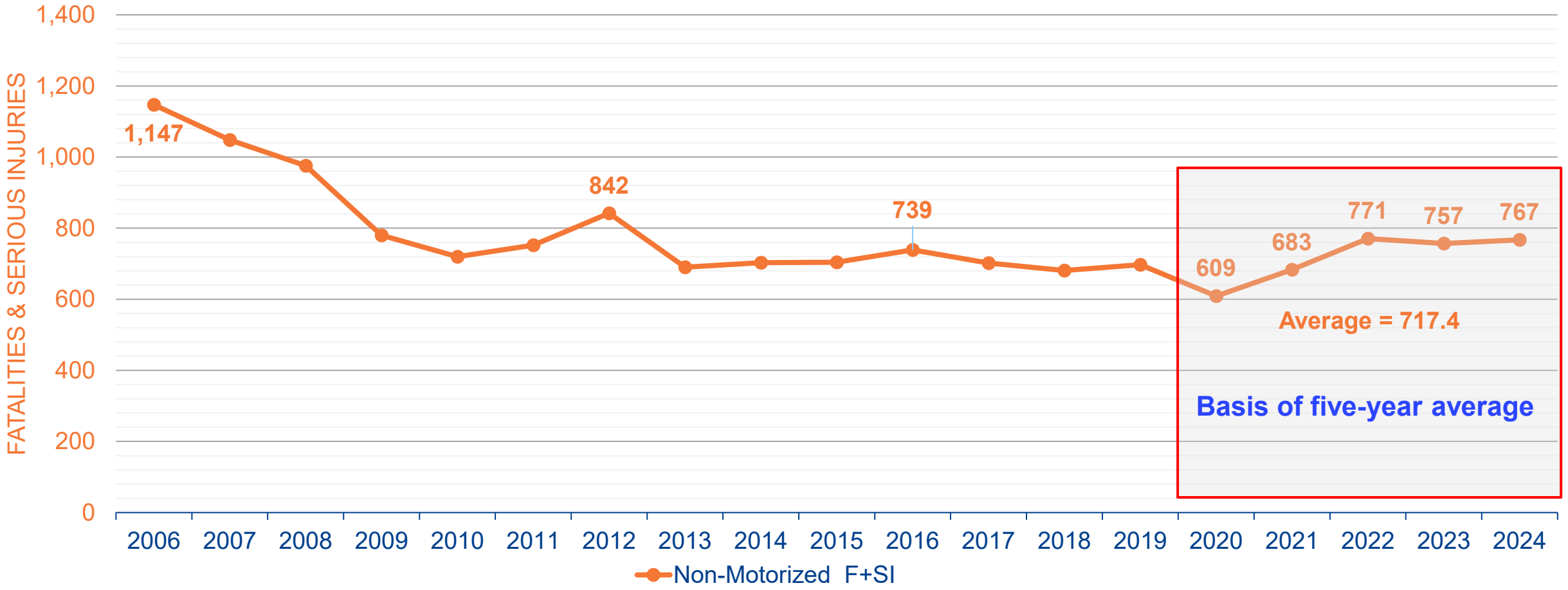
Statewide Trends of Annual Fatalities and Serious Injuries



Statewide Trends of Annual Fatality and Serious Injury Rates



Statewide Trends of Non-Motorized Annual Fatalities and Serious Injuries



Safety Measure Performance and 2025 Projections versus Targets

Measure	2024 Actual Values	2025 Target Values	2025 Projected Values
Fatalities*	918	819	882
Fatality Rate**	1.044	0.894	1.00
Serious Injuries*	7,230	6829	6424
Serious Injury Rate**	8.220	7.457	7.286
Non-Motorized Fatalities + Serious Injuries*	767	619	604

* 2025 projected values are based on available year to date counts and the average proportion of the same period for the last three years.
** 2025 projected rates based on the count measures and projected VMT growth of +0.3% from 2024.

Potential 2026 Federal Target Setting Approaches

- The following approaches were explored to determine which method resulted in level or improved performance:
  1. Predictions from the analytical model used for previous targets
  2. Project values necessary to provide level or improving five-year averages

- More information is provided for both approaches on the following slides

Potential Approaches
Approach 1: Analytical Model Prediction

- Calculate the predicted year fatalities and serious injuries counts using an analytical model that considers external influencing factors and has been adjusted annually
- Determine the expected annual reductions of SMART SCALE and VHSIP projects that were recently or soon to be completed and subtract from the model predictions

$$\boldsymbol{Model\ Prediction - Project\ Safety\ Benefits = Expected\ Performance}$$

- Calculate the two “rate” measures based on the expected performance for “count” measures and the projected VMT growth

Potential Approaches
Approach 2: Level or Improving Five-Year Average Projections

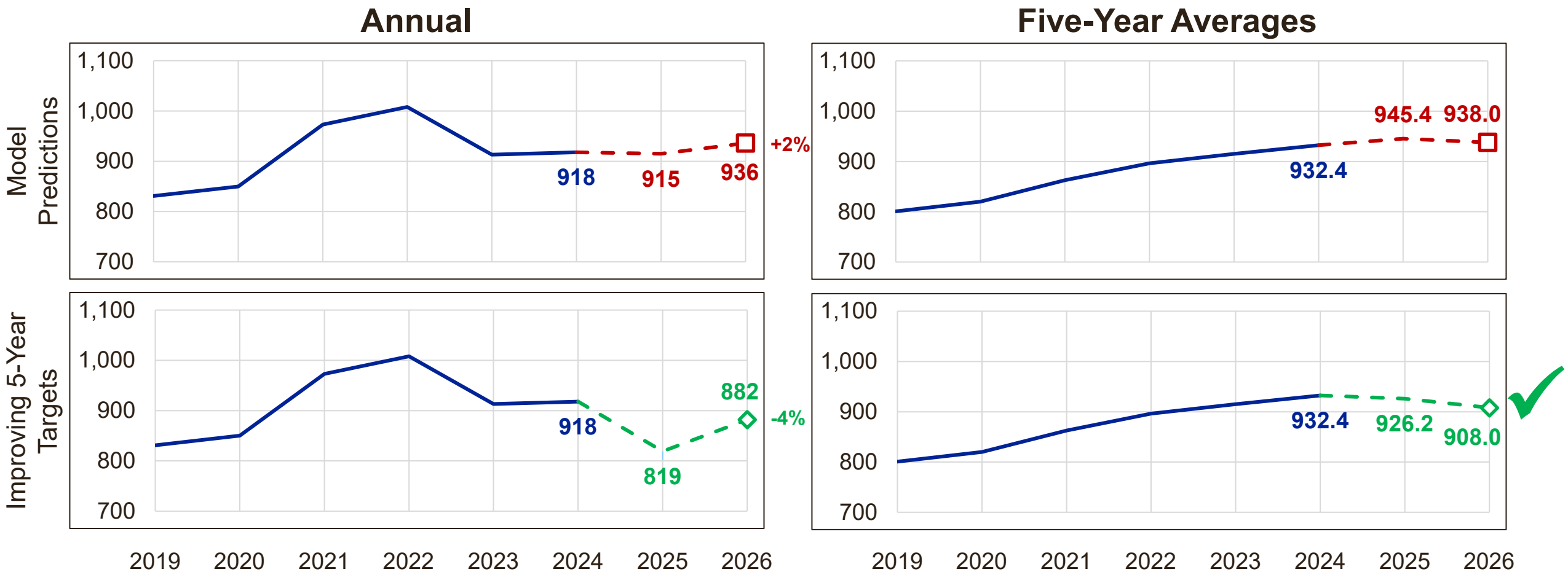
For determining level or improving 2026 five-year averages:

- Use the 2025 adopted safety targets for 2025 values
- Set 2026 safety targets level with 2025 projected values

Results - Fatalities

Historic Data
Model Prediction
Improving 5-Year Target (using 2025 adopted target value and 2026 projected value)

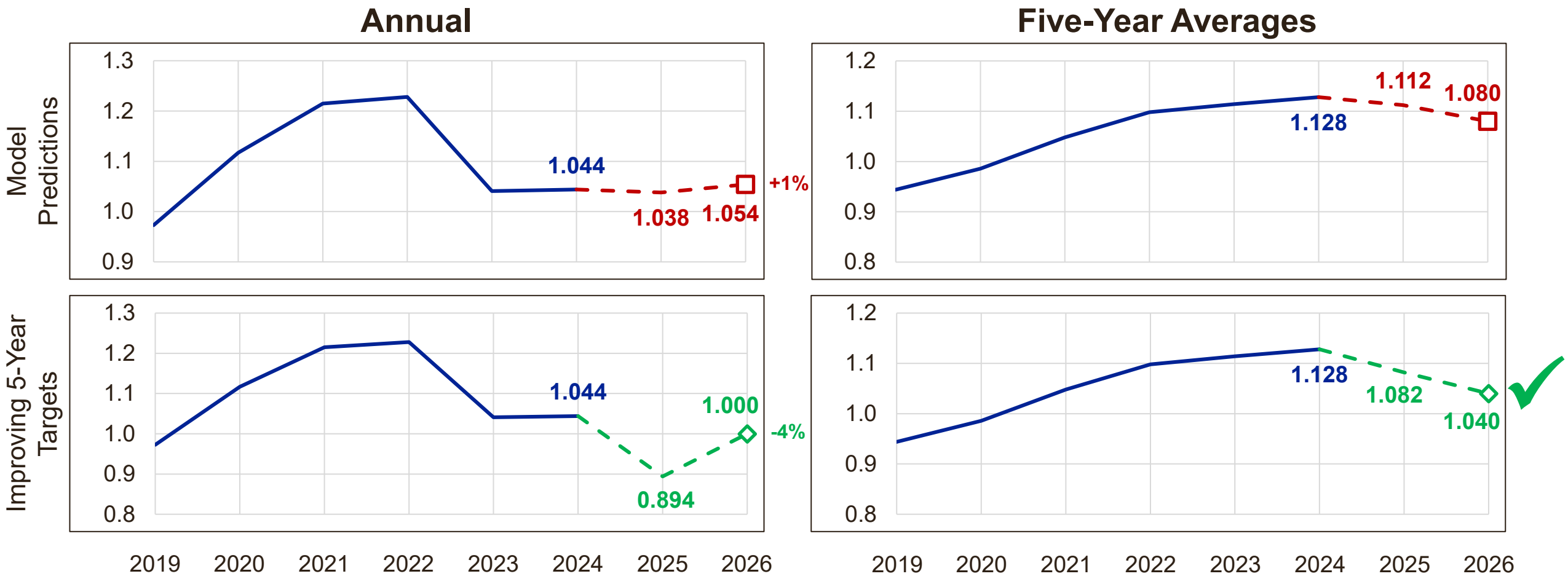
✓ Recommended Approach



Results – Fatality Rate

Historic Data
Model Prediction
Improving 5-Year Target (using 2025 adopted target value and 2026 projected value)

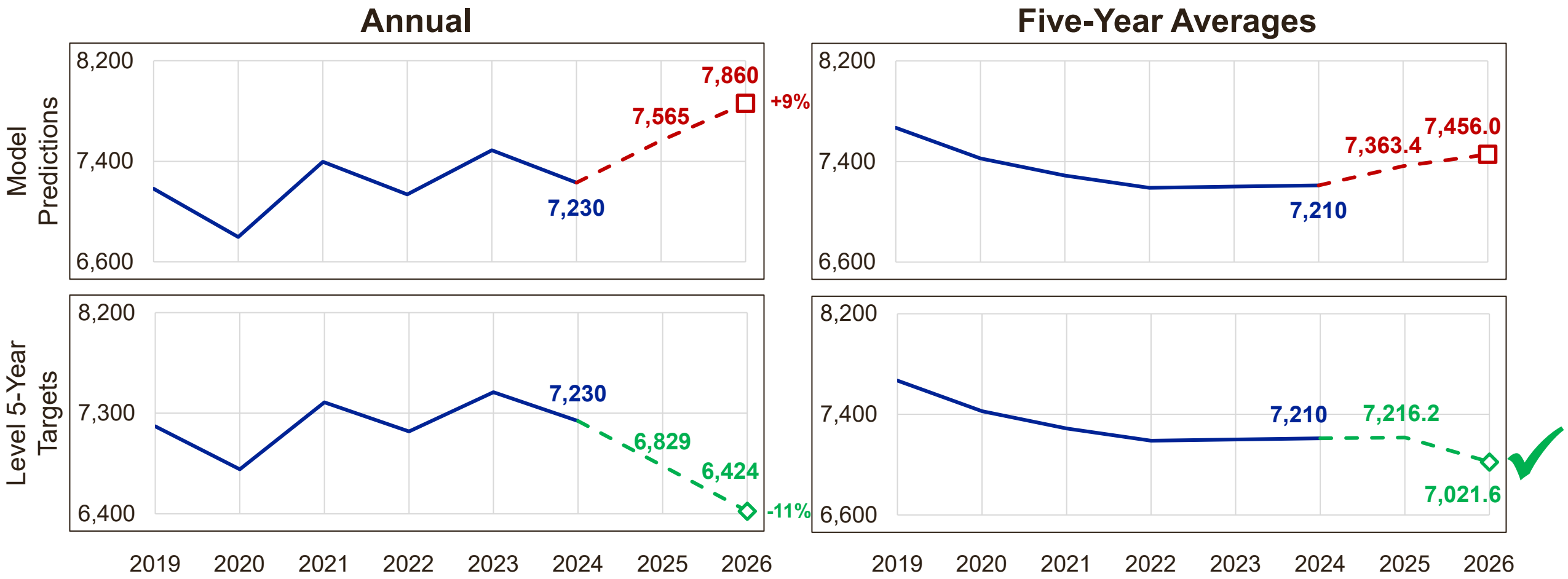
✓ Recommended Approach



Results – Serious Injuries

Historic Data
Model Prediction
Improving 5-Year Target (using 2025 adopted target value and 2026 projected value)

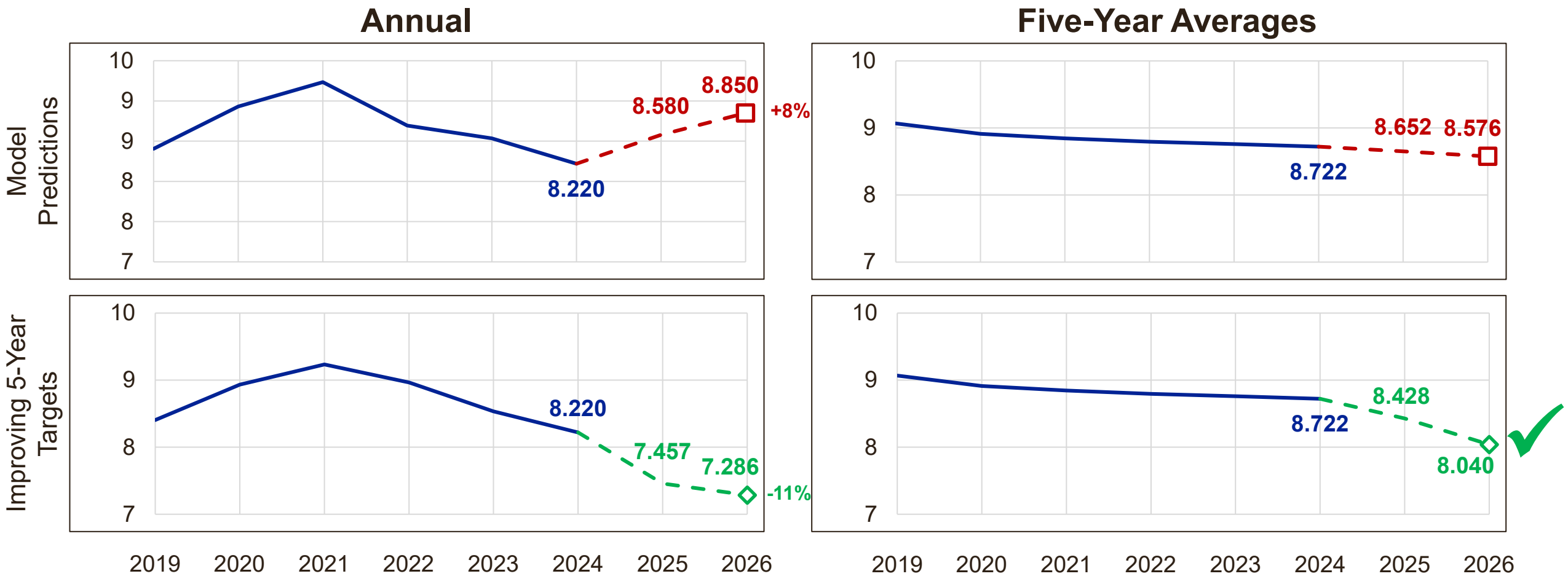
✓ Recommended Approach



Results –Serious Injury Rate

Historic Data
Model Prediction
Improving 5-Year Target (using 2025 adopted target value and 2026 projected value)

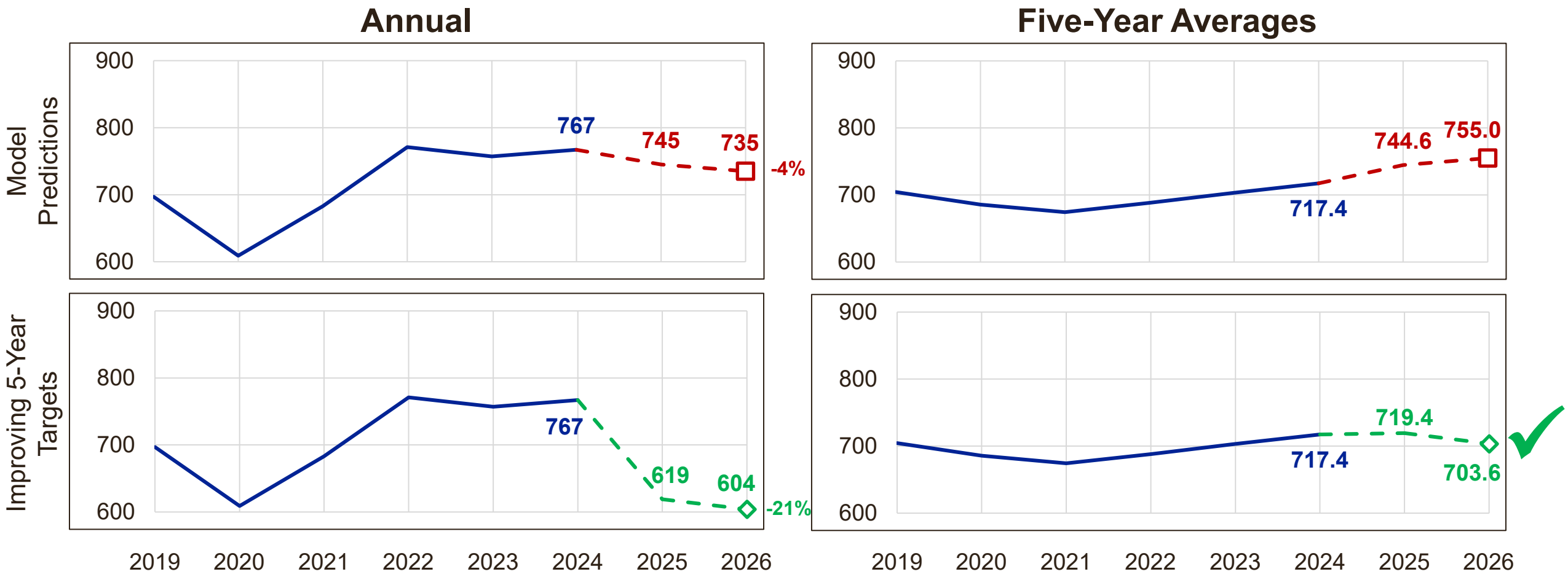
✓ Recommended Approach



Results – Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Historic Data
Model Prediction
Improving 5-Year Target (using 2025 adopted target value and 2026 projected value)

✓ Recommended Approach



Proposed 2026 Annual Federal Safety Targets

- Proposed safety performance values for 2026 based on the approach best meeting the requirement to achieve level or improving five-year averages from the baseline conditions.

Measure	2024 Actual Values	2025 Target Values	2025 Projected Values*	Proposed 2026 Values	Percent Change from '24	Federal 5-Yr Average Approach
Fatalities	918	819	882	882	-4%	Improving
Fatality Rate**	1.044	0.894	1.00	1.00	-4%	Improving
Serious Injuries	7,230	6,829	6,424	6,424	-11%	Improving
Serious Injury Rate**	8.220	7.457	7.286	7.286	-11%	Improving
Non-Motorized Fatalities + Serious Injuries	767	619	604	604	-21%	Improving

* Based on available 2025 year to date count data and the average proportion of the same period for the last three years.
** 2025 projected rates based on the count measures and projected VMT growth of +0.3% from 2024.

Next Steps

- CTB adoption of proposed federal targets at July meeting

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Thank you.