

(HIGHWAY DEATHS)

STATE HIGHWAY DEATH
TOTALS ARE LOWEST IN THE LAST
TEN YEARS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TODAY SAID
THAT THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC
DEATHS ON THE STATE'S HIGHWAY
WAS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY.

THIS MARKS THE LOWEST
TOTAL IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

STATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSIONER DICK BLOCKER
BELIEVES THAT THE PEOPLE ARE
JUST DRIVING SAFER.

Blocker: "For one thing, I think that
people are just being more careful,
observing the speed limit, having their cars
checked, watching out for hazardous
conditions - things like that."

BLOCKER ALSO POINTS OUT
GOOD WEATHER AS A CONTRIBUTOR
TO THE LOW NUMBER.

Blocker: "One reason has to be the good weather we had generally last year. Hazardous weather conditions create a lot of accidents, and we didn't have much of that last year."

IN ADDITION TO THIS, RECENT
CAR SAFETY INSPECTIONS HAVE
PREVENTED POTENTIAL ACCIDENTS
FROM HAPPENING.

Blocker: "Another reason has to be the tough new car safety inspection law the governor proposed and passed three years ago. I that's gotten a lot of cars off the road that might have caused accidents."

DESPITE THE LOW TOTAL,
THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR
IMPROVEMENT AS DRUNKEN
DRIVING IS STILL THE LEADING
CAUSE OF DEATH.

Blocker: "Eighty out of the 120 people who were killed in automobile accidents in the state last year were killed in accidents where alcohol was involved. Alcohol is still the major safety problem in this state."

BLOCKER AND THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LOOK TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM

THIS YEAR BY PASSING
LEGISLATION THAT RAISES THE
DRINKING AGE TO TWENTY-ONE.