

Community Corner

Roadway Safety Series

Stopping crashes BEFORE they happen

Rather than waiting for a crash to occur, highway officials can be proactive by looking for common risk factors and making improvements in locations where there is a higher chance of a crash.

The “systemic,” or risk-based, safety approach is part of an overall Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) that incorporates simple, low-cost improvements at locations with a higher chance of a serious crash.

Safe Systems

The goal is a safe system where everyone gets home safely every day. Responsibility is shared and safety is proactive.



Targeting Hazardous Locations

A data driven approach; existing crashes are reviewed to find “hot spots” which have a concentration of crashes. Also, common factors such as high speeds, more traffic, sharp corners, or trees next to the highway are examined and the entire road network is reviewed to look for locations which have more risks. The LRSP prioritizes improvements in the places which have higher chances of the next crash; which may be in a place that has never had a crash in the past.

Fixing Hazardous Locations

By looking for higher risk locations and “hot spots,” the municipality can immediately start addressing these locations with proven countermeasures. The proactive approach pays for itself by reducing the number of serious crashes.



Department of Transportation
Local Technical Assistance Program

