

Strategic Plan for the Committee on Safety

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Partner in the implementation of a national highway safety strategy and performance measures to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads and locations where roads intersect with other modes of transportation.

A multidisciplinary group is needed to continue to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the public roads transportation system. The complexity of including all modes (highway, rail, air, and non-motorized) will require building partnerships outside highway agencies.

1.1 Lead in the implementation of Toward Zero Deaths: A National Strategy on Highway Safety.

The Toward Zero Deaths strategy will reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

Implementation Actions:

- Serve as a forum for the exchange of highway safety related information
- Provide input to the TZD implementation effort, including best practices from states' experiences.

1.2 Promote communication and education and share best practices of safety initiatives for all public roads and within non-highway transportation modes.

Implementation Actions:

- Coordinate with other AASHTO committees on safety activities
- Serve as a forum for the exchange of highway safety related information
- Develop a plan for AASHTO implementation of safety culture actions recommended in the Toward Zero Deaths strategy.
- Share experiences related to improving safety culture within highway agencies at all governmental levels and among all road users.
- Share and promote AASHTO safety publications to provide data-based information
- Support and provide education on federal legislation that improves safety and increases safety funding
- Advocate for a national traffic safety research agenda and a program to conduct priority public road safety research.
- Ensure all transportation system users' safety (such as bicyclist and pedestrian safety) is communicated in appropriate AASHTO publications, research, and initiatives

1.3 Be a catalyst for bringing together key safety stakeholders outside of AASHTO to develop effective partnerships.

Implementation Actions:

- Identify new and existing stakeholders
- Encourage participation of safety partners in the Committee on Safety and encourage Committee on Safety members to participate in other stakeholders' meetings.
- Promote coordination with public road agencies to increase focus on road safety.

1.4 Assist states in establishing sustainable highway safety performance measures, targets and management systems.

Safety performance measures require several key data elements to calculate.

Implementation Actions:

- Compile and share national performance measurement data.
- Share practices of states' individual methods and procedures for measuring performance and share knowledge and practices related to national performance measures.
- Share data governance, integration, and management efforts throughout the country that support performance measure development and monitoring.
- Promote best practices of safety performance measure coordination at regional and local levels.

Goal 2: Institutionalize analytical tools to advance the science of safety.

The Committee on Safety prepares, publishes, and keeps current through its yearly committee meetings materials, publications, and tools to focus on the advancement of multidisciplinary approaches to eliminating crashes, particularly those resulting in traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

2.1 Support the development of safety publications and tools.

Implementation Actions:

- Support a Highway Safety Manual (HSM) Implementation Pooled Fund as a mechanism to advance ongoing efforts and best practices by states to implement the HSM.
- Identify and prioritize needs and research gaps to advance safety publications' development and implementation of future manual editions and other publications, and to advocate for funding to support research and development of necessary materials.
- Promote Committee member participation in research panels.
- Broadly communicate data and information to support safety publications and tools.

2.2 Support the implementation of the HSM and other safety publications and tools.

Implementation Actions:

- Develop a national recommendation for state implementation plans.
- Utilize State Peer-to-Peer Workshops to develop state implementation plans.
- Establish a methodology to evaluate and assess implementation efforts.
- Share best practices and lessons learned with safety practitioners in other agencies to encourage the use and implementation of the applied research.
- Identify, develop and utilize state safety champions to promote support for implementation activities in other state agencies.
- Identify technical support needs and develop processes or products to address these needs.
- Promote coordination with all state public road agencies to increase focus on road safety.

Goal 3: Provide data-driven safety technical and policy advice.

The main functions of the committee include providing recommendations to the broader AASHTO community on policies and procedures affecting safety performance; exchanging information on current national, state and local practices; and implementing new strategies, practices, and research results.

3.1 Promote the multidisciplinary, comprehensive approach to addressing safety; a quantitative consideration of safety in all program and project decisions; the use of performance-based practical design concepts; and the development of the analytical tools and innovative methods that can better relate the impact of crash frequency and severity reduction on overall changes in traffic safety performance.

Implementation Actions:

- Share lessons learned and best practices with the use of new tools or methods.
- Promote and showcase low cost countermeasures.
- Support states in asset management and performance-based design and best practices.

3.2 Monitor and evaluate the impacts of new technologies/business models on all transportation modes.

Implementation Actions:

- Monitor the potential impacts of autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, electric bicycles, bike share, mobility as a service, smart phone apps, drones and other technologies on active transportation.
- Monitor and evaluate new technologies available to capture and analyze data and support decision making processes related to active transportation.
- Coordinate with the Committee on Transportation System Operations, the Committee on Planning and other AASHTO committees on new technologies and business models.
- Coordinate with other associations and stakeholders involved with new technologies and business models that may improve consideration of bicyclists and pedestrians as part of planning and funding transportation infrastructure.

- Communicate information regarding new technologies and potential impacts to states and provide a forum for discussion among the states.

3.3 Incorporate the knowledge and processes for scientific-based safety methods throughout the planning and programming process.

Implementation Actions:

- Support the development of Local Road Safety Plans for local agencies to create a data driven, prioritized approach to safety for all modes and users.
- Share best practices of implementation efforts.
- Support the development of tools and processes to conduct data-driven safety analysis for all levels of project development.

3.4 Identify, promote and advise on key national and state safety legislation and policy.

Implementation Actions:

- Communicate best practices to state members to assist in promoting key state safety legislation.
- Support legislation that improves safety and increases safety funding.
- Provide a forum for sharing experience with roadway safety hardware, and recommend policy changes regarding review and approval of those technologies.

Goal 4: Ensure a knowledgeable and competent safety workforce.

4.1 Promote the highway safety profession in local, state, and regional public agencies, and the private sector to raise the priority of safety as a professional career path.

Implementation Actions:

- Coordinate with safety and workforce development partners, including the TRB workforce development task force, the National Transportation Training Directors, NLTAPA, NACE, APWA, GHSA, and others, to better define and promote the highway safety profession.
- Promote the professional safety certificate initiatives being developed by ITE, NACE, and the Rural Safety Center, as both credentialing and educational opportunities.
- Educate CEOs to build support for safety in all aspects of safety management and improvement including workforce development opportunities.
- Encourage states to designate safety planners, engineers, and other professionals at local, state, and regional levels to enhance accountability of safety requirements.

4.2 Recruit and develop qualified professionals to safety positions in local, state and regional public agencies, and the private sector.

Implementation Actions:

- Recommend a consolidated highway safety job board to the AASHTO Committee on Human Resources as a service to all members.
- Share best practices for identifying interested individuals and hiring potential candidates.
- Develop safety core competencies for inclusion into agency organizational structure.
- Develop a strategy to encourage more safety related topics and courses for inclusion in the college level engineering and planning curricula.
- Provide information on the highway safety profession to attract people to the field, e.g., science-based aspect; public health aspect; multidisciplinary, multiple organizations.
 - Participate in STEM programs in K-12 education.
 - Identify opportunities for outreach to university level groups (student organizations, events, classes, etc.)
 - Develop a guest lecture class template for highway safety inclusion in transportation engineering, planning, etc.

4.3 Retain and sustain qualified safety professionals.

Implementation Actions:

- Promote professional development and specific training in the science of safety.
- Identify on-boarding opportunities to more quickly train and assimilate new employees.
- Create leadership development programs designed to educate safety professionals for organizational leadership positions, e.g., progress beyond safety departments.
- Promote effective knowledge management succession planning as a core element of employee retention and development.