Safe System Approach Update

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July 2023
NHTSA’S MISSION

Save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes through education, research, safety standards and enforcement activity.

PRIORITY: SAFETY
Our Current Environment

The numbers are getting better, but the problem is too big for any organization to handle alone.

42,795
Early estimate of lives lost in crashes in 2022
-0.3% from 2021

9,330
Early estimate of lives lost in crashes, 2023 Q1
-3.3% from 2022 Q1

$340B
Estimated cost of crashes to the economy (including the public) in 2020

Sources: Crash Stats: Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Sub-Categories in 2022; The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019 (Revised)
Our Road Forward

- Support the National Roadway Safety Strategy
- Create a strong traffic safety culture
  - Implement a Safe System Approach
  - Conduct meaningful public engagement to inform highway safety planning

Multidimensional problems call for multidisciplinary solutions
Implementing SSA is challenging...

First line of defense

Elimination
- Eliminate exposure to the crash before it can occur

Substitution
- Lower injury severity in the event of a crash

Engineering Controls
- Change how we design & operate the road system, vehicles, and programs

Administrative Controls
- Change how people use the system through education, legislation, and policy

Behavioral Controls
- Mitigate damage by wearing helmets, using seat belts, driving safely

Final line of defense
…make it easier by finding partners…

Example issue:
High number of Roadside Departure crashes along a specific roadway segment
...then take (and keep!) them on the journey with you.

- **Drill down into the data**
  Engage stakeholders to share data and perspectives on data

- **Consider critical areas**
  Engage partners to see where shared targets and performance measures can be identified

- **Expand your partnerships**
  Ask existing partners for new ideas, new partners, and new SMEs

- **Expand your CM portfolio**
  Ask partners how they would address the issue to reach the target

- **Implement differently**
  Work with partners to tackle the problem from multiple angles

- **Innovate**
  Integrate innovative approaches into a cohesive systems-level plan

- **Engage the public**
  Engage affected communities who are overrepresented in the data & underserved by current programs

- **Use proven-effective CM**
  HVE and legislation can provide a backbone for any strategy

- **Infuse equity everywhere**
  Work with partners at every stage of the process, from problem ID through implementation and evaluation

- **Strengthen data**
  Record data and evaluation results, include partners in the discussion and ongoing planning efforts
Using a Safe System Approach, no one shoulders the work alone.
Questions?