



Minnesota Report on Safety SCOHTS Safety Management Meeting



Seattle, Washington
August 31—September 2, 2016

Minnesota District Safety Plans, Second Edition: *A Roadmap to Safer State Highways*

From 2008 through 2012, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic, Safety and Technology developed the first District Safety Plans. These safety plans offered a systemic risk assessment of Minnesota's Trunk Highway Network and a selection of engineering countermeasures to address overall risk on Minnesota Trunk Highways. Over the last year, the Minnesota Department of Transportation revised new Minnesota District Safety Plans.



2016 District Safety Plan Workshop

Beginning in 2016, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is revising the Minnesota District Safety Plans. The District Safety Plan, again, offers a systemic risk assessment of rural Minnesota roads and identifies nearly 4,000 appropriate projects to address safety risks. This project is the result of collaboration between Traffic Engineers, the Office of Traffic, Safety and Technology, and consultants. The update process includes formal data analyses, network screening, and district-wide workshops. Our transportation districts may expect final District Safety Plans by Summer 2016.



District Safety Plans will inform future traffic safety funding decisions and expedite project selection processes. Minnesota does not have to wait for summer to realize the benefits of the updated District Safety Plans!

According to Derek Leuer, "already, nearly 12 million dollars' worth of projects featured in the Safety Plans and Safety Plan Workshops have been selected and are in the implementation process!" In order to improve roadway safety in Minnesota, the District Safety Plans offer District Traffic Engineers reliable and rigorous analyses and recommendations.

For more information, contact: Derek Leuer, Assistant Traffic Safety Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation
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Coming Soon: *Minnesota's Safety Projects are on the Map*

Minnesota Department of Transportation funded safety projects are now tracked using a geo-located software program. This tracking program documents locations and dates of installations.

Benefits of the new Safety Project Tracking System

- ◆ More efficient reporting process i.e. annual HSIP reports
- ◆ Foster more efficient outcome evaluations and program evaluations
- ◆ Improve transparency of safety funding decisions

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Consider the Alternatives!

The Minnesota Department of Transportation continues to encourage innovative safety countermeasures such as alternative intersection designs and sinusoidal rumble strips, also known as the Minnesota Mumble strips.

Currently, nine Reduced Conflict Intersections are installed and more are on the way. Reduced Conflict Intersections improve safety by reducing the number of potential conflict points from 42 to 24. To learn more about Minnesota's Reduced Conflict Intersections please visit: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadwork/rci/>

Minnesota currently has 4 Diverging Diamond Interchanges and more are planned! To learn more about Minnesota's Diverging Diamond Interchanges, please visit: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadwork/divdiamonds.html>.

In order to address concerns about nuisance noise, alternative rumble strip designs are under consideration. The sinusoidal rumble strip has been tested. A recent MnDOT study investigated the impact of sinusoidal rumble strips on motorcyclists to determine an optimal design with minimal discomfort to vulnerable road users, reduced nuisance noise, and optimal safety benefit. To read the full report visit: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/research/TS/2016/201623.pdf>.

Innovative Projects: *Minnesota Pursues a Positive Traffic Safety Culture*

Traffic Safety Culture sits at the center of Minnesota's Strategic Highway Safety Plan! In order to promote a positive traffic safety culture, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is organizing a Traffic Safety Action Team and funding a Community-level Traffic Safety Culture Project.

The Traffic Safety Culture Action Team consists of a diverse group of committed traffic safety advocates. This action team aims to promote a better understanding of Traffic Safety Culture and Traffic Safety culture Strategies among our traffic safety partners and stakeholders and facilitate the implementation of Traffic Safety Culture Strategies in Minnesota.

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