



Caltrans Division of Safety Programs

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS





IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY VISION

1. The Division is implementing the Director's Policy on Road Safety (DP-36) to integrate Safe Systems Approach into policies, procedures, and practices in all phases of Caltrans project lifecycle through:



- ▲ Publication and implementation of the first *Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2024*.
 - ▲ Release of new safety data and research tools
 - ▲ Development of new safety guidance documents
 - ▲ Partnering with districts to strategically implement safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
2. Delivered the Division's first Strategic Plan in partnership with districts and HQ Divisions.
 3. Partnered with the Division of Traffic Operations in the development of a performance-based budget aligning with the Division's Strategic Plan priorities. Developed performance measures for the division and the districts.

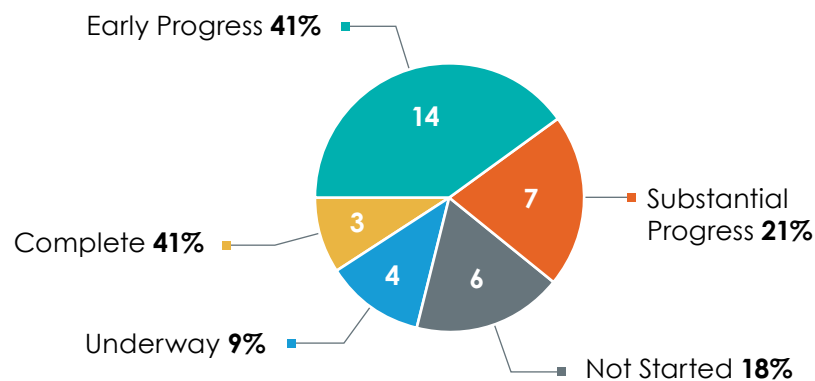


ROAD SAFETY PLANS

RSAP

1. Published a *Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP)* in April 2023 containing 14 statewide actions with 34 deliverables. The effort also includes 150 individual actions led by various HQ Divisions and districts. The focus of RSAP is to bring about long-term cultural shift in the departmental policies and procedures to create an alignment with the Safe System Approach.

Status of Road Safety Action Plan Deliverables December 2023



RSIP

2. Kicked off the statewide effort to develop the *Road Safety Infrastructure Plans (RSIPs)*. Completed overall project management strategy and a literature review of the local road safety plans. The RSIPs are data-driven district level safety plans which will enable Caltrans to systematically plan and implement safety improvements at a district level.



STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

1. Hosted the first SHSP Transportation Safety Summit in Sacramento in May 2023 with executive level participation from federal, state, regional and local agencies.
2. Coordinated with the SHSP team to welcome more than 50 new members to various Challenge Area Teams, representing all 5 Es — Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Emergency Response, and Emerging Technologies. The new members from various organizations across the state have strengthened collaboration to help achieve our collective goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries.
3. Collaborated with SHSP partners to conduct a Mid-Term Evaluation, which assessed the progress being made toward achieving California SHSP goals. Consisting of three major categories — Data Analysis, Evaluation of the Completed Actions in the Implementation Plan, and Process Improvements — the Mid-Term Evaluation progress helps direct future team effort.





SAFETY DATA & RESEARCH TOOLS

1. Added provisional safety data to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Crash Data Dashboard in collaboration with the SHSP Steering and Executive Leadership Committees. Publishing provisional data provides our stakeholders more up-to-date information to study crash patterns and refine focus on specific challenge areas.
2. Led the effort to partner with local jurisdictions and advocacy groups to complete California's first Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment. Utilized a data-driven process to identify priority locations and strategies to improve safety for VRUs on state and local roads.





SAFETY GUIDANCE

1. Published a Traffic Calming Guidance in collaboration with the Division of Design and Traffic Operations. The guidance consists of 27 calming measures developed to slow speeding vehicles by building self-enforcing roadways.
2. Developed a proven safety countermeasure (PSC) guidelines for Median Barrier and revised the PSC guidelines for Rumble Strip to streamline statewide implementation.
3. Delivered two weeklong in-person Traffic Safety Workshops, four basic and four advanced traffic safety investigation training sessions, and nine Safety Device Coordinator training sessions.
4. Released safety investigation guidance memo for Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) information. The memo provides statewide consistent guidance for district traffic safety investigators to take appropriate action in responding to MAIT fatal crash alerts.
5. Coordinated with the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) to complete Revisions 7 and 8 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Included more than 30 revisions, covering various topics from signage to pavement marking to improve highway safety and operations.



IDENTIFICATION OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENT AREAS

1. Released the following networking screening and monitoring program reports:
 - ▲ Network Screening Reports (Table C and Wet Table C)
 - ▲ Wrong Way Driver Systemic Safety Improvement Program
 - ▲ Wrong-Way Monitoring Report
 - ▲ Cross Over Collision Monitoring Program
 - ▲ Run Off Road Collision Program Report
 - ▲ Pedestrian Safety Improvement Monitoring Program
 - ▲ Vision Zero Pilot Monitoring Program cycle two
2. Successfully completed cycle one of a two-year Caltrans "Vision Zero" pilot program to investigate fatalities and serious injuries on State Highway System that are not captured through existing network screening.



FOCUS ON SPEED REDUCTION STRATEGIES

1. Implemented Assembly Bill (AB) 43 and AB 1938 by including revisions to the CA MUTCD, and updates to the CA Manual for Setting Speed Limits. Additionally, implemented statewide training on the Assembly Bills and setting speed limits. AB 43 and AB 1938 grant greater flexibility in setting speed limits for certain highway segments.
2. Worked with UC Berkeley to develop a report that establishes a context-sensitive framework for determining speed limits on California roadways, moving away from the conventional 85 percentile approach that is based on driver behavior. The report also includes strategies for engineering interventions to reduce operating speed.





SAFETY AWARDS

1. Won the 2023 National Roadway Safety Award, a biennial award sponsored by FHWA and the Roadway Safety Foundation, for HM-4 Safety Program in the Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation category.
2. Won the American Planning Association (APA) California Chapter, Sacramento Valley Section's Award of Merit for Best Practices for the 2020–2024 California Strategic Highway Safety Plan's 2020 Safety Pivot.
3. Won the APA California Chapter, Northern Section's Award of Merit for Transportation Planning for the Steering Committee and Executive Leadership's efforts on the 2020–2024 California Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
4. Won the annual AASHTO President's Award for Road Safety for laying the foundation for an organizational cultural change through establishment of a total of 26 Safe System Leads across Caltrans districts and major divisions; and identifying more than 150 actions to institutionalize the Safety System Approach in policies, procedures, and practices throughout the lifecycle of all Caltrans projects in the form of Road Safety Action Plans (RSAP 2023-2024).



INTEGRATING SAFETY INTO THE PROJECT LIFECYCLE

1. Completed a two-year pilot for the HM-4 Safety Pilot Program and enhanced nearly 4500 locations through 28 projects addressing pedestrian safety, horizontal curve warning, and wrong-way driving prevention.
2. Successfully expanded and extended the HM-4 Safety Pilot Program for another four years. Added focus areas include bicyclist safety enhancements, run off the road collision prevention and crossover collision focus areas.
3. Provided advice, approvals, data mining, standards, and specifications for:
 - ▲ Delivery of reactive safety projects totaling \$361M, including \$36M focused on the safety of vulnerable road users (VRU).
 - ▲ Achieved Ready to List status for \$518 M worth of reactive safety projects including \$40M focused on the safety of VRU's.
4. Approved 47 MASH-compliant devices and revised related specifications. Revised over 70 standard plans to expedite statewide MASH implementation in project delivery.



BUILDING THE PROGRAM

1. Established 26 Safe System Lead position in each district and HQ programs
2. Expanded the Employee Recognition Program for Safety Programs by adding more opportunities for employees to be recognized.
3. Partnered with the Division of Traffic Operations to create an internal Hiring Guide for supervisors
4. Partnered with the Division of Traffic Operations to develop a mentorship program
5. Established the Office of Safe System Approach Integration to oversee the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) branch, lead the implementation of the RSAP and provide increased support to the districts for developing HSIP projects, an overall addition of 4 staff members.
6. Added five transportation engineers and one retired annuitant that act as Traffic Safety Engineers in the Office of Safety Systems and Devices. These staff members provide statewide technical support in the areas of speed management, plans and specifications development for proven safety countermeasures and traffic calming measures, and CAMUTCD to improve highway safety.



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