



ROAD SAFETY

ACTION PLAN 2023-24





FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Governor's Office has identified five focus areas for all state departments to prioritize. One of those areas is a "Clean, Green and Safe California."

For Caltrans, this means safety will continue to be our top priority as we work to eliminate all fatal and serious crashes on the state highway system.

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in fatal and serious injury crashes on California's roadways in recent years.

Just last year, approximately 10% of national roadway fatalities occurred on California's local and state roads. That is nearly 12 lives lost every day on the local roads and state highways combined. Families, friends and loved ones acutely feel those losses and the losses impact Caltrans as well. Which is why we are dedicated to designing, building, and maintaining safety systems on our roads. This is why Caltrans has set the goal of eliminating all fatal and serious injury crashes by 2050.

To help us get there, in February 2022, Caltrans released its first Director's Policy on Road Safety (DP-36). The policy outlines steps to achieve the ambitious goal of zero deaths or serious injuries on our roadways, which include:

- Implementing the Safe System Approach, a holistic response to our safety challenge that focuses on preventing fatal and serious crashes, and on making our network more forgiving when crashes happen.
- Ensuring equity for underserved communities where injuries and deaths are disproportionately high.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of safety policies and procedures to create Road Safety Action Plans for each Caltrans district and headquarters division

The Division of Safety Programs led the effort to create Road Safety Action Plans identifying the most impactful actions from each district and division to align internal policies, practices, processes, and standards with our safety goal.

Caltrans' first statewide Road Safety Action Plan compiles key actions to help us build our momentum and institutionalize safety statewide.

The actions included in this document build upon our past successes to proactively support safety for the traveling public through every stage of the state highway project lifecycle – from planning, design, and construction, all the way to maintenance and operation. They also advance the goals of Caltrans' Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – to enhance multimodal transportation, advance equity and promote livability in all communities.

As a Safety First department, Caltrans is focused on measures to reduce risks for ALL users, including those who drive, walk, ride, or use other modes of transportation – and for Caltrans employees and contractors who are working on the roadways to make our network as safe and reliable as possible for everyone else.

Achieving this goal will take a comprehensive effort across the board from all 22,000 Caltrans employees, our partner agencies, roadway users, and the private sector. This 2-year Road Safety Action Plan will serve as a roadmap and one critical part of our work to eliminate all fatal and serious injury crashes by 2050.

Sincerely,

Tony Tavares
Director



INTRODUCTION

The Caltrans Road Safety Action Plan is a coordinated effort led by the Division of Safety Programs, in partnership with Caltrans districts and other Headquarters divisions. The purpose of the Road Safety Action Plan is to support Caltrans’ goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes on our roadways by 2050. To achieve this goal, Caltrans has adopted the Safe System Approach as declared in the new Director’s Policy on Road Safety (DP-36). The Safe System approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users through a holistic view of the road system, using the following principles:

- Eliminate death and serious injury
- Humans make mistakes
- Humans are vulnerable
- Responsibility is shared
- Redundancy is crucial
- Safety is proactive and reactive

Caltrans has embarked on several efforts to adopt the Safe System Approach and meet its safety goals. One of these efforts is to develop a department-wide Road Safety Action Plan which involves a thorough review of our existing policies, procedures, and practices against the Safe System Approach.

Caltrans Commitments within Director’s Policy for Road Safety (DP-36)

- » A safety first mindset prioritizing road safety.
- » Prioritize the elimination of fatal and serious injury crashes through our existing safety improvement programs along with development and implementation of new programs to enhance the safe use of our roadways.
- » Eliminating race-, age-, ability-, and mode-based disparities in road safety outcomes.



Each of Caltrans 12 districts, and all relevant Headquarters Programs and divisions are required to develop an action plan to incorporate road safety as appropriate for their role. From these action plans, Caltrans developed the department-wide Road Safety Action Plan, identifying the actions from the district and

headquarters division plans that have the potential to provide the most wide-ranging and significant policy support for fully implementing DP-36 on a statewide level.

The department-wide Road Safety Action Plan will be implemented within a two-year timeframe, from January 2023 to December 2024. Once implemented, it is expected to not only directly influence the state highway system, but also indirectly influence the state’s local road system and enhance road safety over the long term.

Caltrans will continue to revise and update this plan once every two years. Progress on the actions contained in this plan will be reported quarterly. The following pages provide an outline of four categories of actions in this plan, as described below. The details of each category of actions including tasks, descriptions, deliverables, completion dates, and the corresponding lead and supporting Headquarters divisions and districts are also included.

The Road Safety Action Plan is divided into four categories:

-  **Integration of Safety into Caltrans Policies**
-  **Best Practices Update**
-  **Data Collection and Database Management**
-  **Public Outreach**

The Road Safety Action Plan will constitute one of the key result areas of Caltrans towards achieving its goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes on our roadways by 2050 and meeting the state’s responsibility to create a Clean, Green and Safe California.



The actions in this Caltrans Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) will be monitored through the following process:

1 The Division of Safety Programs (DOSP) consulted with the Safe System Lead from every division and district to identify actions appropriate for their roles. Each action included road safety outcomes and milestones.

2 An in-person workshop was conducted in October 2022 with the Safe System Leads to rank the actions submitted to the DOSP. Each action was reviewed and ranked according to its ability to address one of the three commitments of DP-36 and its department-wide impact. The actions were assessed by three separate groups consisting of Safe System Leads representing all of the Caltrans districts and divisions.

3 Following the workshop, the DOSP reviewed the results and identified actions that would have the most wide-ranging impact on the departmental policies. The DOSP then conducted meetings with the districts and divisions to clarify intent and ownership of each action. DOSP held additional meetings with the districts to ensure that every district would be represented in the statewide RSAP.

4 The draft action list was reviewed and approved by the DOSP, which is responsible for oversight of the plan. The DOSP met with the district and HQ-division Safe System Leads to seek alliance on consolidating similar actions and to identify the lead and support teams for those actions. The DOSP will be reporting progress to executive management and CalSTA.

5 The DOSP will track quarterly progress of actions in the plan through coordination with the Safe System Leads. All quarterly reports will be published on the DOSP website upon completion.



DOSP RSAP Contacts:

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Chief Safety Officer
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Executive Safe System Advisor



SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE ACTIONS

INTEGRATION OF SAFETY INTO CALTRANS POLICIES	1.1	Review and update statewide planning guidelines to incorporate the Safe System Approach.
	1.2	Revise the Highway Safety Improvement Program Guidelines.
	1.3	Develop a statewide decision-making framework for proactively identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing roadway safety investment.
	1.4	Develop “Designing for Safety” training to support implementation of Safe System Approach directed at the project development teams.
	1.5	Propose to extend Caltrans’ delegation to approve proactive safety projects in addition to reactive projects.
	1.6	Enhance the Safety Review process to incorporate the Safe System Approach in project road safety design decision process.
	1.7	Review and update the Statewide Procedure/Technical Guidance for road safety in work zones.
	1.8	Create a policy to facilitate speed enforcement in the Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program and Maintenance Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program in work zones.
	1.9	Identify all of Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information policies and directives that require any revisions to be consistent with DP-36 and make updates.
BEST PRACTICES UPDATE	2.1	Develop best-practice guidance to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists on the State Highway System.
	2.2	Expand before-and-after studies for safety projects (reactive and proactive) on the State Highway System.
DATA COLLECTION AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT	3.1	Develop a statewide inventory of safety devices to support proactive safety initiatives and create a framework to extend the database to include additional roadside safety features.
PUBLIC OUTREACH	4.1	Develop project-level communication plans to promote road safety enhancements and improvements in partnership with District Public Information Officers.
	4.2	Conduct public outreach surveys to identify areas of improvement.

INTEGRATION OF SAFETY INTO CALTRANS POLICIES



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>1.1 Review and update statewide planning guidelines to incorporate the Safe System Approach.</p>	<p>Incorporate the Safe System Approach into Project Initiation Document (PID) Guidance. Incorporate the Safe System Approach into System Planning Guidance. Review and update the Corridor Planning Process Guide. Review and update the Active Transportation Emphasis Area Guide. Review Climate Change Emphasis Area Guide to determine if safety can be included; emergency evacuations a focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Updated Project Initiation Document (PID) Guidance ✓ Updated System Planning Guidance ✓ Updated Corridor Planning Process Guide ✓ Updated Active Transportation Emphasis Area Guide ✓ Updated Climate Change Emphasis Area Guide 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Transportation Planning</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>1.2 Revise the Highway Safety Improvement Program Guidelines.</p>	<p>Caltrans safety programs are modeled on the guidelines for the federally funded Highway Safety Improvement Program. With the adoption of the Safe System Approach at the federal as well as state level, there is an opportunity to better align the various components of the statewide safety program guidelines with the Safe System Approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review and update the safety project prioritization methodology including the Safety Index to prioritize sites with the highest severity of collisions ✓ Review and update safety countermeasures included in the Highway Safety Improvement Program Guidelines and make consistent with Proven Safety Countermeasures 	<p>06/2023 12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Safety Programs</p>	<p>-</p>

INTEGRATION OF SAFETY INTO CALTRANS POLICIES



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>1.3</p> <p>Develop a statewide decision-making framework for proactively identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing roadway safety investment.</p>	<p>A statewide decision-making framework is required to align the state highway safety infrastructure with its long-term equity goals. This framework should include development of the Road Safety Infrastructure Plans and a star-rating system to prioritize proactive corridor safety enhancements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a methodology to create a decision-making framework to support Road Safety Infrastructure Plans. ✓ Pilot a state-highway safety rating system based on the safety assets and geometric features modeled on the usRAP system. 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Safety Programs</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>1.4</p> <p>Develop “Designing for Safety” training to support implementation of Safe System Approach directed at the project development teams.</p>	<p>There are many technical trainings, manuals, and eLearning classes that will educate the Project Development Team (PDT) on how to design roadways, provide guard rails, etc., however those are not comprehensive to proactive safety. (PD-RSA-SSA-05)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop and deliver statewide/regionwide annual training. This can be done by improving existing training or creating a new training. 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Design</p>	<p>Division of Safety Programs</p>

INTEGRATION OF SAFETY INTO CALTRANS POLICIES



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>1.5</p> <p>Propose to extend Caltrans' delegation to approve proactive safety projects in addition to reactive projects.</p>	<p>Collaborate with stakeholders to identify opportunities to expedite the approval process for proactive safety projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a proposal for a changed process ✓ Work with stakeholders to get a decision ✓ Apply or revise the proposal as per the decision 	12/2024	Division of Financial Programming	District 4 District 10
<p>1.6</p> <p>Enhance the Safety Review process to incorporate the Safe System Approach in project road safety design decision process.</p>	<p>Review to recommend alternatives to project scopes (in phases 0 and 1) and include Maintenance and DES safety evaluations to identify opportunities for safety enhancements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve guidelines for conducting Safety Reviews scope and content throughout Project Delivery (including Bridge Design process & procedures) ✓ Develop a template for a formal Safety Review report ✓ Develop criteria for the composition of independent multi-disciplinary Safety Review teams ✓ Develop guidelines for Safety Review applications to appropriate projects ✓ Improve requirements for team member qualifications for Safety Reviews ✓ Update Safety Review procedures to be compliant with DP-36 	12/2024	Division of Design	District 7 District 9 District 11 District 12 Division of Engineering Services Division of Safety Programs

INTEGRATION OF SAFETY INTO CALTRANS POLICIES



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>1.7</p> <p>Review and update the Statewide Procedure/ Technical Guidance for road safety in work zones.</p>	<p>Update the Statewide Procedure/ Technical Guidance for road safety in work zone. (PD-RSA-SSA-04)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Update Project Development Procedures Manual ✓ Issue Memorandum for statewide consistency implementation ✓ Ensure implementation of Quality Management Plan 	12/2024	Division of Construction	District 1 Division of Design
<p>1.8</p> <p>Create a policy to facilitate speed enforcement in the Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program and Maintenance Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program in work zones.</p>	<p>Law enforcement presence is proven to be effective at promoting worker safety in work zones. The creation of a policy would help determine the circumstances under which law enforcement presence would be recommended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Caltrans Statewide Policy 	12/2024	Division of Construction	District 1 District 8
<p>1.9</p> <p>Identify all of Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information policies and directives that require any revisions to be consistent with DP-36 and make updates.</p>	<p>Review and update the existing policies, manuals, guidelines, or deputy directives within Division of Research, Innovation and System Information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prepare draft of the updated documents; the identified Office updates the documents ✓ Release the updated document 	12/2024	Division of Research, Innovation and System Information	-

BEST PRACTICES UPDATE



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>2.1 Develop best-practice guidance to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists on the State Highway System.</p>	<p>This action would include development of various best-practice guidance documents to facilitate installation of traffic control devices to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Memorandum for installation of crosswalk striping to supplement California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) guidance ✓ Memorandum to aid in prioritizing installation of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon and Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon systems ✓ Memorandum to facilitate the use of wide striping as a traffic calming measure on sections of highways passing through areas with a high concentration of pedestrians and bicyclists 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Safety Programs</p>	<p>Districts 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12 Division of Design Division of Equipment Division of Maintenance Division of Traffic Operations</p>
<p>2.2 Expand before-and-after studies for safety projects (reactive and proactive) on the State Highway System.</p>	<p>Guidance from the CA Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) directs agencies to double down on what works. To better understand what works in various situations, additional studies will be conducted for all safety projects including both proactive and reactive projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expanded annual safety report that includes before-and-after safety performance for proactive safety projects in addition to reactive safety projects. 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Safety Programs</p>	<p>District 1 District 6 District 9</p>

DATA COLLECTION AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
<p>3.1</p> <p>Develop a statewide inventory of safety devices to support proactive safety initiatives and create a framework to extend the database to include additional roadside safety features.</p>	<p>Develop a statewide geocoded inventory of safety devices including signs, traffic safety systems (i.e., barriers, guardrails, crash cushions, end treatments), pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the State Highway System. Develop a framework to extend the database to include additional roadside features such as rumble strips, paved shoulders, fixed objects; to support proactive safety initiatives aimed at eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a framework for a database for safety devices inventory ✓ Develop a framework for incorporating a Geographic Information Systems interface for the inventory 	<p>12/2024</p>	<p>Division of Maintenance</p>	<p>District 2</p> <p>District 4</p> <p>District 10</p> <p>District 11</p> <p>Division of Safety Programs</p>

PUBLIC OUTREACH



TASK	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERABLE(S)	COMPLETION DATE	LEAD DIVISION/DISTRICT	SUPPORTING DIVISIONS/OFFICES/DISTRICTS/AGENCIES
4.1 Develop project-level communication plans to promote road safety enhancements and improvements in partnership with District Public Information Officers.	Use Public Information Officers more effectively to communicate and promote safety enhancement and improvement efforts for specific projects to the public (i.e. utilize District Public Information Officers early to help plan ahead for effective project communication).	✓ Update project management directives (PMD 003R) and guidance to consistently include representative from Public Information Officers and Division of Safety Programs	12/2024	Division of Project Management	Division of Safety Programs Division of Public Affairs
4.2 Conduct public outreach surveys to identify areas of improvement.	In partnership with Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), conduct public outreach surveys to identify areas of improvement for all road users including bicyclists and pedestrians.	✓ Summary of surveys conducted and responses received	12/2024	Division of Public Affairs	District 5 District 7 Division of Safety Programs



ACRONYMS

CaSTA	California State Transportation Agency
CA MUTCD	California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
CMCP	Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan
CTC	California Transportation Commission
DOSP	Division of Safety Programs
DP-36	Director's Policy for Road Safety
HQ	Headquarters
OTS	Office of Traffic Safety
PDT	Project Development Team
PID	Project Initiation Document
RSA	Road Safety Audit
RSAP	Road Safety Action Plan
SHSP	Strategic Highway Safety Plan

DIVISION PARTNERS

Caltrans Office of Race and Equity (CORE)
Division of Business Operations
Division of Construction
Division of Design
Division of Engineering Services
Division of Environmental Analysis
Division of Equipment
Division of Financial Programming
Division of Human Resources
Division of Local Assistance
Division of Maintenance
Division of Procurement and Contracts
Division of Project Management
Division of Public Affairs
Division of Rail and Mass Transportation
Division of Research, Innovation and System Information
Division of Right of Way & Land Services
Division of Risk and Strategic Management
Division of Safety and Management Services
Division of Traffic Operations
Division of Transportation Planning

CALTRANS DISTRICT MAP



DISTRICT PARTNERS

District 1	Eureka
District 2	Redding
District 3	Marysville
District 4	Oakland
District 5	San Luis Obispo
District 6	Fresno
District 7	Los Angeles
District 8	San Bernardino
District 9	Bishop
District 10	Stockton
District 11	San Diego
District 12	Irvine



Additional Questions?

Reach out to the Division of
Safety Programs email at
safety.programs@dot.ca.gov

