



RESOURCE FOR PLANNING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

NEW

The goals for transportation planning are simple – moving people and goods safely. However, the actual planning process is highly complex, due to the many factors involved. To address this complexity, the Transportation Safety Planning Working Group (TSPWG), made up of transportation and safety representatives from multiple federal agencies and national organizations, has developed the **Transportation Planner's Safety Desk Reference**. This article will describe this guide and also a helpful web site at which it is found.

The **Desk Reference** project was supported by the FHWA and provides strategies for transportation planners based on materials from the popular National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). Report 500 series making the information in those materials useful in practice. It is divided into three major sections, one of which specifically deals with integrating safety concerns and issues into current planning processes at the state, regional and local levels.



Using the **Desk Reference**, planners can learn how to analyze crash and other data to identify safety problems, and develop strategies for preparing documents and facilitating discussions in the planning process. Some suggested basic steps include:

- Determining high crash locations, types, and contributing crash causes.
- Identifying appropriate countermeasures to address these crashes.
- Creating goals, objectives, and performance measures to manage a transportation system's safety performance.

The **Desk Reference** also provides information and advice on 17 safety emphasis areas, ranging from older drivers and aggressive driving to collisions with trees or distracted driving. Each of these areas features a description of the problems including statistical data followed by strategies that address problems that can be incorporated into planning.

The **Desk Reference** is available for download at the TSPWG web site: <http://tsp.trb.org>. This web site is a great resource in itself: You can learn about the program and its goals, post a question on their Q & A Forum, and check out the Noteworthy Practices section. This section features reports from around the country that have successfully integrated safety concerns into transportation planning. It also helps planners meet the requirements of SAFETEA-LU which elevated the importance of safety in the planning process.

Reference: MASS INTERCHANGE, Summer 2008