Traffic crashes cause loss of life, serious injury, and economic loss. Each year in New York State more than 1,000 people die and 11,000 people are seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes. The combined hospitalization and emergency department charges average $1.1 billion annually. This Fact Sheet provides local governments with information about how you can get involved and improve traffic safety in your community.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

NEW YORK STATE SAFETY PLANS

STATE SAFETY PARTNERS AND RESOURCES
New York State Department of Transportation http://www.dot.ny.gov/safety
Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee http://safety.ny.gov/
Institute for Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) https://www.itsmr.org/
New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards http://www.nysatsb.net/
Cornell Local Roads Program http://clrp.cornell.edu

FEDERAL SAFETY PARTNERS AND RESOURCES
Federal Highway Administration https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov
National Highway Transportation Safety Administration https://www.nhtsa.gov/
Work Zone Safety Program https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/

DATA RESOURCES

NYSAMPO
NYSAMPO is a coalition of the fourteen MPOs in New York State, which have committed to work together toward common goals. NYSAMPO works collaboratively on planning and research initiatives in order to provide high-quality transportation planning expertise to the public.

The Safety Working Group provides a forum for the exchange of safety planning-related ideas and information for a range of Federal, state, regional, and local safety partners.

New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
www.nysmpos.org

The Impact of Traffic Crashes in New York
SAVING LIVES ON YOUR ROADWAYS

In New York, between 2010 and 2015
fatalities decreased 7% from 1,201 to 1,121
and serious injuries decreased 13% from 12,802 to 11,077

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Traffic crashes cause loss of life, serious injury, and economic loss. Each year in New York State more than 1,000 people die and 11,000 people are seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes. The combined hospitalization and emergency department charges average $1.1 billion annually. This Fact Sheet provides local governments with information about how you can get involved and improve traffic safety in your community.

PAGE 2 New York’s Plan for Action  PAGE 3 Safety Solutions that Work  PAGE 4 Want to Learn More?
NEW YORK’S PLAN FOR ACTION

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a comprehensive five-year statewide safety plan for reducing the number of fatalities and severe injuries for all users on New York’s public roads.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

New York’s safety partners will advocate for those who travel by any mode and deliver data-driven safety programs to decrease the number of injuries and fatalities that occur on public roads in New York State. Together we will work to ensure safety is a top priority in all engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical service activities.

**WHAT IS AN EMPHASIS AREA?**

An emphasis area is a crash type or factor that contributes to a crash. The six emphasis areas identified in the 2017 SHSP comprise 93.2% of the fatal and serious injury crashes in New York State. The primary goal of the SHSP is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by two percent annually by identifying strategies targeted to each Emphasis Area.

**FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES BY EMPHASIS AREA: 2011-2015**

- **AGE-RELATED**:
  - Young Drivers: 7%
  - Older Drivers: 27%

- **SPEED-RELATED**: Speed-Related: 11%

- **LANE DEPARTURE**:
  - Lane Departure: 12%

- **VULNERABLE ROAD USERS**:
  - Pedestrians: 18%
  - Bicyclists: 25%
  - Motorcyclists: 27%
  - Work Zone: 11%

- **ROAD USER BEHAVIOR**:
  - Alcohol-Related: 7%
  - Drug-Related: 11%
  - Unrestrained: 12%
  - Distracted, Drowsy, and Cell Phone: 11%

Cross-Cutting Considerations and Emerging Areas: The SHSP notes that emergency response, data improvements, and connected and autonomous vehicles are considerations and emerging areas for collaboration with public safety, incident management, and other partners.

SAFETY SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Reducing fatalities and serious injuries will be achieved through a multidisciplinary approach to address the various contributing factors. Many of the emphasis areas include strategies representing the 4 Es of traffic safety (Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services). Examples of these types of strategies include public education campaigns to help change behavior, focused enforcement of traffic laws and examining crashes to learn from them, developing engineering solutions to create safer environments, and increasing the quality and response time of emergency responders. A complete list of strategies is found in the SHSP.

**BEHAVIORAL SOLUTIONS**

- Use crash maps to help pinpoint focus areas for engineering, education, and enforcement solutions.
- Provide driver education materials to help drivers understand new transportation infrastructure.
- Coordinate with safety partners to support programs and projects that address road user behavior, vulnerable road users, and older and younger drivers.

**INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS**

- Roundabouts enhance safety by slowing down vehicles and preventing head-on collisions and other severe crashes.
- Centerline and shoulder rumble strips prevent head-on and run off the road crashes.
- Pedestrian countdown timers encourage pedestrians to cross within the allotted time, reducing the risk of crashes.
- Improvements to curves, including high-friction surfaces, advanced signage, alignment adjustments, and pavement markings keep drivers on the road.
- No Turn On Red signs reduce crashes at intersections and prevent drivers from blocking crosswalks, improving pedestrian safety.

**BE A SAFETY CHAMPION**

- Provide enthusiasm and support for safety.
- Hold agencies and practitioners accountable for implementing safety programs and projects.
- Secure the necessary resources, visibility, support, and partner commitments to advance safety.
- Participate in meetings, conversations, and solutions on transportation safety topics.
  - Attend an MPO or Traffic Safety Board meeting.
  - Create a community traffic safety committee or host a traffic safety meeting.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER?**

Contact your local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for assistance!

**BRAINSTORM**

- Use crash maps to help pinpoint focus areas for engineering, education, and enforcement solutions.
- Provide driver education materials to help drivers understand new transportation infrastructure.
- Coordinate with safety partners to support programs and projects that address road user behavior, vulnerable road users, and older and younger drivers.

Note: A fatality or serious injury may include multiple contributing factors from multiple emphasis areas, e.g., a fatality involving a younger impaired driver.