

Proposed Emphasis Areas for the Safety Element of the Long- Range Transportation Plan for the Washington Region

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MPO Safety Planning under SAFETEA-LU

- SAFETEA-LU requires that the regional long-range transportation plan contain a Safety element
- Must “incorporate or summarize” the priorities, goals, countermeasures, or projects for the MPA contained in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- All regional plans adopted after October 1st. 2007 must be SAFETEA-LU-compliant
- Washington region has three Strategic Highway Safety Plans

Goals of the SHSP's

- Vision Goals:
 - DC: “Zero traffic related deaths and disabling injuries by the year 2025”
 - MD: “Eliminate motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries on Maryland roads and highways”
 - VA: “Make Virginia’s surface transportation system the safest in the nation by 2025”
- Five-year goals: All propose reducing traffic fatalities and injuries by 10%

Emphasis Areas

- All include the following emphasis areas:
 - Aggressive Driving
 - Impaired Driving
 - Driver Competence
 - Information and Decision Support Systems
 - Intersection Safety
 - Roadway Departures
 - Motorcycles
 - Trucks
 - Buses
 - Occupant Protection
 - Pedestrians
 - Work Zones
 - Emergency Medical Services

Consistency

- Definitional – VA uses < 21, >70 to define young and old drivers. DC uses <25, >65. MD uses <21, >65.
- Differences in emphasis
 - VA mentions EMS improvements as a strategy but not as an emphasis area.
 - MD does not mention bicyclists as an emphasis area.
 - DC emphasizes traffic calming, while VA emphasizes removing pedestrians from harm's way

Strategies

- DC's plan includes 139 Strategies and 83 near-term action items
- Safety Strategies tend to fall under the Four E's – Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services
- All three States are moving to upgrade their traffic records and data reporting systems, to support better safety planning

The Safety Element of the Transportation Plan

- Use the common elements of the SHSP's
- Strategies
 - Reference SHSP's
- Review/Approval