

Sub-part 7601 – Traffic Engineering Division

Chapter 00700 Highway Safety Program

Purpose

- 100 To establish a procedure for continuing a systematic program to identify, investigate, make recommendations, correct, and evaluate the effectiveness of a strategic highway safety program for the state, as per 23 U.S.C. 105(f), 152, 315, and 402; section 203 of the Highway Safety Act of 1973, as amended, 49 CFR 1.48(b).
- 101 To establish a procedure for continuing a systematic program to identify, investigate, make recommendations, correct, and evaluate the effectiveness of a strategic highway safety program for the state, as per 23 U.S.C. 105(f), 152, 315, and 402; section 203 of the Highway Safety Act of 1973, as amended, 49 CFR 1.48(b).

Object

- 200 The Object of this Program is the reduction in number and severity of accidents within the State. Specific objectives are:
1. Establishment of a field reference system for determining traffic crash locations.
 2. Updating and maintenance of a traffic records system.
 3. Coordinate and lead the Statewide High Hazard Elimination Program.
 4. Coordinate and lead the yearly Statewide Work Zone Safety Review Team.
 5. A process for systematic correction of identified safety needs.
 6. A process for evaluating the effectiveness of the Safety Program.

Organization

- 300 The position of Highway Safety Engineer was established within the Department to administer a Highway Safety Program. Oversight and guidance will be provided by the following:
1. State Traffic Engineer
 2. Assistant Chief Engineer – Operational Maintenance
 3. State Planning Engineer
 4. State Research Engineer
 5. District Engineers Statewide
 6. Safety Engineer – FHWA
 7. State Aid Engineer
 8. Governor's Highway Safety Program Director
- 301 The Safety Engineer will have the overall responsibility of development, maintenance, and update of a Strategic Highway Safety Plan for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

- 302 It is also the Safety Engineer's duty to make changes in these procedures as he deems necessary to assure compliance. The Safety Engineer will monitor the Safety Program to assure the procedures are on schedule. He will be responsible for timely reports to the Chief Engineer on the progress being made and to recommend the necessary support and funding needed to implement the activities and recommendations developed under this program. The changes should be reviewed by the State Traffic Engineer.
- 303 The Safety Engineer will contact the applicable District and Divisions to carry out the specific tasks specified in the procedures below and to fulfill supplemental studies and reports as may be required by the Department and the FHWA.
- 304 The activities to develop the Strategic Highway Safety Plan will utilize guidance from the AASHTO Strategic Safety Plan, MUTCD, and the aforementioned oversight members. These will provide the necessary instruction to conduct a program which will assure the State of accomplishing all tasks necessary to develop, implement, and maintain the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Procedures

- 400 Records - The Safety Engineer will work with the Department of Public Safety to develop, implement, maintain, and update a new traffic crash records system. This system will utilize a database that will allow the Safety Engineer to access crash data and identify high crash locations that may need safety countermeasures.
- 401 Identification – The Traffic Engineering Division will be responsible for preparing all basic reports and analyses for identifying the high accident locations on a periodic basis. Special reports will also be made at the oversight members' request to identify particular locations and accident types they may desire to investigate. The reports will be developed in accordance with the above.
- 402 Recommending Improvements
1. Hazard Elimination Program
Organize, coordinate, and lead the Statewide High Hazard Elimination Team. This includes, but is not limited to: Coordinating with District Office personnel, Traffic Engineering personnel, and FHWA personnel, candidates for High Hazard Elimination; organizing and leading meetings and site reviews of candidate projects; and follow-up reports and recommendations.
 2. Work Zone Safety Review Team
Organize, coordinate, and lead field reviews of active construction work zone traffic control statewide. This includes, but is not limited to: Coordinating with District, Project Office, Traffic Engineer, Construction Division, Roadway Design, and FHWA personnel active projects to be reviewed. Schedule and lead job site visits and furnish follow-up reports and recommendations.
 3. Special Safety Projects
Work with personnel in Traffic Engineering Division, MDOT District Offices, other MDOT Divisions, FHWA, Department of Public Safety Planning, and other agencies

as required on special safety projects that will enhance safety on MDOT maintained highways. This includes, but is not limited to: Assisting in the development, implementation, and maintenance of the aforementioned new traffic crash data records system; safety studies at intersections, interchanges, or sections of MDOT maintained highways, and working with FHWA and other agencies on legislation that will promote actions which will improve safety on Mississippi highways.

4. Public Relations

Provide assistance, as requested, to MDOT personnel, FHWA personnel, State Legislators, and personnel from other State and Federal agencies on traffic safety issues.

Evaluation

- 500 The Safety Engineer will have the primary responsibility for before and after studies of selected safety projects constructed under this program to aid in measuring their effectiveness. The study results will be furnished to the oversight members for their use in reporting progress in highway safety, monitoring the effectiveness of the safety program, and measuring the overall effects of different types of safety improvement applications.
- 501 The Safety Engineer will prepare an annual report to show the progress being made in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- 502 Sites for the Mississippi Code are available at www.state.ms.us and MUTCD information is available at mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov. Any other publications may be viewed during regular business hours at the MDOT Administration Building.