Regional Traffic Safety Resource Group Update

Transportation Committee
July 16, 2021
Regional Traffic Safety Action Agenda
Mission Recap

• Address long-term regional traffic safety in a comprehensive, equitable, data-driven, and collaborative way

• Center the work around ON TO 2050 guiding principles, CMAP's core values, and our ability to implement

• Support and amplify the work of our partners efficiently and effectively

• Develop long-term regional traffic safety coalition
Project Timeline

Resource Group #1
kickoff

January
February
March
April
May
June

Resource Group #2
Speed Management Approach

July
August
September
October
November
December

Resource Group #3
Speed Management
Paper and Solutions

Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions

Resource Group #4
Bike / Ped Approach

2021
2022
Safety Action Agenda Update

- In Practice: Local Technical Assistance projects
- Outreach, engagement and media
  - Weekly articles
  - CMAP Talks: Complete Streets: Safe by Design
  - Presentations to partners and committees
  - Coming soon: safety webpage
- Data: Regional speed data
- People: Resource Group, partner meetings, summer intern
Policy Paper
*Improving Regional Travel Safety through Speed Management*

- Equity lens
- Process
- Partners
- Evaluation

*Framed by ONTO 2050 Principles:
  - Inclusive growth
  - Resilience
  - Prioritized investment*
State of the Practice: Speed Management

• Leading examples

• Neither conclusive nor exhaustive; general sense of possibilities and direction

• Guide and hone our research and analysis

• Expect new ideas to emerge

• Eye towards implementation
In the news

More people died on Illinois roads last year than since 2007. Pandemic to blame?

45% increase in people struck and killed while walking. The last four years were the most deadly in three decades.

You're Driving Too Damn Fast. A new report shows it's not texting, drunken drivers, teenagers or jaywalkers causing Portland's epidemic of pedestrian deaths. It's speed.

New data shows Chicago's speed cameras are effective in preventing traffic deaths.
Design Example: Self-enforcing streets

- FHWA: A self-enforcing road ("self-explaining") is a roadway that is planned and designed to encourage drivers to select operating speeds in harmony with the posted speed limit.

- Countermeasures: design (ex. pedestrian refuges) and information (ex. speed feedback loops).

- Leverage design to minimize reliance on enforcement.

- See also: complete streets, traffic-calming.
Policy Example: Speed Limit Guidance

• Concerted effort to move away from 85\textsuperscript{th}-percentile approach

• Coordinate with context and design – target speeds

• Seattle study: reducing speed limits and \textbf{increasing the frequency of speed limit signage} reduced crashes by 20% to 40%
Education Example: Regional Safety Culture

• Institutionalize & publicize regional safety information
  • Regular reporting on fatalities
  • Regular safety meetings

• Training and technical assistance

• Align with funding opportunities

• Measure performance (before/after)
Enforcement Example: Automation

• NYC “safety cameras” are an experiment-in-progress ~ 1200 speed cameras currently and more to come

• Early data show fewer collisions & rapid decline in average weekly violations after installation

• Different types of communities are seeing success (and use them differently)

• Needs to be analyzed from equity perspective

• Doesn't control for impairment, use of seatbelts, etc.
What are the most important traffic safety needs in your jurisdiction, community, agency?
Thank you!

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Key points: Speed Management Discussion

- Address speed management from all the topic areas
- Maximize design, operations, policies and education to reduce reliance on enforcement
- Design (and other) guidance must be context-sensitive
- Develop targeted education efforts for different stakeholders
- Explore data collection programs to measure performance
Traffic Fatalities in northeastern Illinois

Source: CMAP analysis of crash data obtained from the Illinois Department of Transportation
Speed-related fatalities in the US and IL. Source: FARS