



THE TRAFFIC SAFETY NAVIGATOR

Winter 2021

The Traffic Safety Navigator is the 2020–2024 California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) e-newsletter. The newsletter provides SHSP updates along with insights into best practices for implementing strategies that reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on California’s roadways.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Introduction: SHSP Receives Prestigious Award
- SHSP Updates Goal to Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries
- 2021 SHSP Traffic Safety Facts Available Online
- Preparing Drivers of all Ages to be Safe on the Roads
- Get Involved
- What is the SHSP?

INTRODUCTION: SHSP RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

We hope you and your families had a wonderful, safe holiday season. As we move into the new year, we want to feature some of the SHSP accomplishments that occurred in 2021. This edition features information on key decisions and publications from the past year to further the Mission, Vision and Goal of the SHSP. We are excited to announce that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Roadway Safety Foundation recently recognized California’s 2020–2024 SHSP with the [2021 National Roadway Safety Award](#). The biennial National Roadway Safety Awards rely on an expert panel of judges from a variety of disciplines to evaluate projects that involve infrastructure, operational, or

program-related innovations, and to select winners using three criteria — effectiveness, innovation, and the efficient use of resources. This recognition is a testament to everything California is doing to make our transportation system safer for everyone on the road. From Caltrans and our other state agencies to federal, tribal, local, and community-based safety partners, the SHSP team is tackling this issue with urgency and taking a bolder, more innovative approach to implementing strategies that will save lives. Learn more about this prestigious award on the [SHSP website](#).

SHSP UPDATES GOAL TO ZERO FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES

The SHSP is a collaborative and iterative process to ensure that the most successful, proven strategies are utilized to reduce fatalities and serious injuries across all travel modes and on all public roads. In March 2021, SHSP Executive Leadership voted to approve the revised 2020–2024 SHSP Report and Implementation Plan, which takes a bolder and more focused approach to traffic safety. To further support this approach, the SHSP Executive Leadership recently voted unanimously to update the official SHSP Goal from “Move Toward Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries” to “Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries.” While it may seem like a simple word change, there are some significant differences between the previous and current versions of the SHSP Goal.

Toward Zero Deaths was adopted as a National Strategy by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), and other partner agencies in 2014. Toward Zero Deaths initiatives have made an impact as a first step to move us toward zero fatalities. However, over the last five years there have been more than 3,300 traffic fatalities in California and more than 35,000 in the United States each year, and thus a new approach is needed.

Zero based initiatives are newer and focus on the urgent need for collective action to end all fatalities and serious injuries and utilizes the [Safe System Approach](#) as its foundation. The Safe System Approach requires a supporting [safety culture](#) that places safety first and foremost in road system investment decisions. “Toward Zero” would be satisfied with just a slight improvement in the deaths and serious injuries. However, Zero signifies an ethical imperative that more urgent changes are needed now to end all deaths and serious injuries. By officially changing the SHSP Goal, SHSP Leadership formalizes and furthers its commitment to safety on all public roads.



Watch this [video](#) which highlights why zero is the only acceptable number of fatalities.

2021 SHSP TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

NOW INCLUDES ADDITIONAL EQUITY-RELATED DATA

The use of data to drive decisions and actions is foundational to the implementation of the 2020—2024 California SHSP. The summer 2020 “[Pivot](#)” highlighted the need for traffic safety professionals and partners to have better access to crash data as they implement the SHSP. Complementing the roll out of the [Crash Data Dashboard](#), the [2021 SHSP Traffic Safety Facts](#) was published in September 2021 to highlight relevant data findings statewide as well as for each of the SHSP Challenge Areas.

The Guiding Principle of Integrate Equity is being fully institutionalized in the SHSP. Analyzing data through an equity lens ensures that the processes, strategies, and outcomes of the SHSP serve all, but particularly vulnerable and traditionally underserved populations. Several equity-related data sets spotlighted in the Traffic Safety Facts include the distribution and likelihood of traffic fatalities by race and income level, and the breakdown of fatalities and serious injuries for each Challenge Area by age, gender, and mode.

The fact sheets represent a starting point for high-level data dissemination to partners and the public. We look forward to future updates as we better understand what information is the most valuable to our partners and the public.

To view the fact sheets and more information visit the California [SHSP website](#).

PREPARING DRIVERS OF ALL AGES TO BE SAFE ON THE ROADS

Submitted by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Young drivers (under age 21) account for about four percent of licensed drivers in California, but approximately 11 percent of deadly crashes and 12 percent of serious injury crashes. For 16- to 18-year-olds who want to get a driver’s license in California, they must complete driver education and six hours of professional driver training, among other requirements.

The DMV licenses driving schools and establishes the curriculum guidelines for those driver training courses, which are currently being updated as part of the SHSP. The previous content was last updated about 20 years ago — before technology factored into driving, driver safety, and vehicle operation.

The DMV will make sure the new curriculum rules are consistent with the guidelines laid out by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), a national group, to ensure they are taking appropriate, proactive steps to improve young driver safety. The most recent recommendations of the GHSA

include focusing on vehicle handling and crash avoidance, driver behavior and risk reduction, learning components for the parents of young drivers, and utilizing computer simulations and other technology.

Drivers, young and old, have opportunities to become better drivers. The DMV partnered with the American Automobile Association (AAA) to conduct outreach programs aimed at older drivers in urban areas and is looking to expand the education to rural areas by the end of next year. This program, [CarFit](#), shows older drivers how to configure their vehicles, including seat position and steering wheel height. The program helps drivers remain mobile and safe, so they may remain driving for as long as it is safe to do.

The DMV is committed to doing its part to prepare drivers to be safe travelers on California's roads.

GET INVOLVED AND SHSP RESOURCES



CHECK OUT THE SHSP CRASH DATA DASHBOARD

The California SHSP Crash Data Dashboard was developed to provide SHSP implementers with direct access to crash data to support data-driven implementation of the SHSP. The dashboard currently uses finalized crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) and allows users to customize reports by location and other characteristics.

[View Dashboard](#)



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

The SHSP is just the start. The 5 Es need to work together to implement the actions developed in the SHSP. Involvement in an SHSP Challenge Area Team is a direct way to influence countermeasures selected to improve safety. It is never too late, volunteers are needed for all Challenge Areas.

[Get Involved](#)



SHARE YOUR STORIES

We want to know about your successful implementation of traffic safety countermeasures! We will be highlighting success stories on the SHSP website and in future newsletters.

[Share your Story](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 13–15, 2022** Lifesavers Conference, Chicago, Illinois
lifesaversconference.org/future-conferences



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE TOPICS?

We want to know what topics are of interest to California! Complete our simple feedback form to provide suggestions on future newsletter topics.

[Submit Feedback](#)

To stay up-to-date on SHSP news, subscribe [HERE](#).

WHAT IS THE SHSP?

The California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a comprehensive, statewide transportation safety plan which provides a framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries across all travel modes and on all public roads. Started in 2005, the SHSP is updated regularly to ensure continued progress and to meet changing safety needs. Currently, over 580 safety stakeholders from over 230 public and private agencies and organizations work together on this effort under the guidance of the SHSP Executive Leadership and SHSP Steering Committees. The SHSP addresses the 5 Es: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Emergency Response, and Emerging Technologies. In summer 2020, state transportation leaders recognized a bolder and more focused approach was necessary to combat the rise in fatalities and serious injuries that have occurred on California roadways since 2010. Four new Guiding Principles have been incorporated into the SHSP update process to further improve safety:

- 1. Integrate Equity**
- 2. Implement a Safe System Approach**
- 3. Double Down on What Works**
- 4. Accelerate Advanced Technology**



VISION

Safe public roads
across California



MISSION

Ensure safety for
all modes of travel
on California's
public roads



GOAL

Zero Fatalities and
Serious Injuries

[Learn More](#)

More Information

For more information about the California SHSP, please visit
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/shsp>

Questions? Comments? Email to SHSP@dot.ca.gov