

Traffic Operations

MAY 2026

Project Title: SSP Pooled Fund Study (PFS)

Task Number: 4019

Start Date: April 8, 2022

Completion Date: April 12, 2027

Task Manager:

Jose Camacho Jr.
Transportation Engineer (Electrical)
Jose.Camacho.Jr@dot.ca.gov

DRISI Division Chief:

Prakash Sah, PE
Prakash.Sah@dot.ca.gov

Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF)-5(489) – Safety Service Patrol (SSP) Standardization and Management Practices

A research project lead by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to support the development of recognized industry standards by establishing tools and technical reports that identify best practices and aligns those best practices to assist organizations in addressing issues that are common among agencies that manage and operate SSPs.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The SSP PFS will provide an opportunity to facilitate information sharing and documenting the successful practices of established SSP programs. The SSP Industry Association (SSPIA) will partner with the PFS to establish a repository of information for all existing and future agency members of the SSPIA.

Many jurisdictions throughout the country operate full-function SSPs that are equipped to provide a wide range of complex, on-scene assistance to help mitigate an incident. SSP Operators are often first on the scene of an incident and provide immediate and invaluable assistance to law enforcement, involved parties, and other first responders. In many programs, SSP Operators remain on the scene throughout its duration, which increases their exposure to traffic and threatens their personal safety.

The collective experience gained from agencies managing these programs will provide invaluable knowledge to improve the safety of SSP Operators, first responders, and the public. The PFS is intended to expand upon the FHWA-led 2017 study entitled, "Safety Service Patrol Priorities and Best Practices" (FHWA-HOP-16-047) that largely focused on which agencies currently have SSP programs, the programs' overall objectives, items for new program managers to consider, and performance metrics used by those programs. The PFS is looking to further identify best practices that can support standards in the application of emergency traffic control;



DRISI provides solutions and knowledge that improves California's transportation system.

safety protocols for SSP vehicles and associated equipment; and guidelines for staffing, training, and certification of SSP staff. Agencies providing SSP services prioritize the safety of their operators, first responders, and the public. The results of this PFS will support those agencies with that top priority by providing guidance for SSP program management; documentation of standard for emergency traffic control and SSP support activities; and best practices in staffing and training initiatives employed by existing SSP programs.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The primary objective of this PFS study will be to gain technical information related to SSP program management, standards associated with SSP response protocol and the implementation of traffic control, and references and guidance related to staffing, training, and resource allocations within SSP programs.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goals of this project are:

1. Assemble best practices and lessons learned from existing programs.
2. Develop guidance documents based on lessons learned from existing programs.
3. Reference or create tools that will help agencies make informed program decisions such as route selection, staffing levels, and resource allocation.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The state would benefit from the collective experience gained from all the agencies managing the SSP programs as it will provide invaluable knowledge to improve the safety of SSP Operators, first responders, and the public.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

- Held winter quarterly working meeting on 1/27/2026
- Reviewed feedback on Phase 2 whitepapers on learning objectives
- Completed draft whitepaper on contracts.
- Began work on Phase 3 which focuses on the strategic level of managing an SSP program specifically funding strategies and budgets, and resource management of Phase 1 Best Practices in emergency traffic control (ETC) and Vehicle Configurations. Phase 1 includes an assessment in standards for both SSP vehicle and emergency traffic control implementation.
- Began preparations for spring annual in-person meeting
- Prepared Government Invoicing (G-Invoicing) agreement for Volpe work to continue