



THE TRAFFIC SAFETY NAVIGATOR

Fall 2023

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 achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries on California’s roadways.

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2020–2024 SHSP PROGRESS

Welcome to the fall 2023 edition of the Traffic Safety Navigator. As we approach the final year of the 2020–2024 SHSP cycle, this newsletter will highlight some of the major milestones achieved over the past several years. During the first year of this SHSP update 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. This important change is referred to as the Pivot, which included the development of four Guiding Principles as well as High Priority and Focus Challenge Areas. The California SHSP Crash Data Dashboard was developed in 2020 to provide SHSP implementers with direct access to crash data to support data-driven implementation of the SHSP. It has been continuously improved to further integrate equity into the SHSP, most recently with the addition of the California SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities Dataset (2022). The SHSP Equity-Related Data Working Group was also created in 2021 to review

equity-related data analyses that could be included in the SHSP, and to work on developing ways to address gaps, biases, and limitations with existing data sources within the context of the SHSP. Additionally, the SHSP Team has further strengthened partnerships with stakeholders throughout the state via both virtual and in-person engagement activities. Learn more about 2020–2024 SHSP progress, including findings from the SHSP Mid-Term Evaluation, the completion of some of the SHSP actions currently in the Implementation Plan, and the work that the California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) is doing below.

SHSP MID-TERM EVALUATION UPDATES

Over the past six months, the SHSP Team has worked in partnership with the Steering and Executive Leadership Committees on the Mid-Term Evaluation, which assesses the progress being made towards achieving the SHSP goal of Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries on all public roads in California. Consisting of three major categories — Data Analysis, Evaluation of the Completed Actions in the Implementation Plan, and Process Improvements — the Mid-Term Evaluation gives the SHSP Team a better understanding of progress made on implementing the SHSP and helps direct team efforts going forward.

The Data Analysis portion of the evaluation targets the understanding of how fatalities and serious injuries are trending by Challenge Area (including during the pandemic), whether any changes are needed to the High Priority Challenge Areas, and what improvements could be made to data availability/analyses conducted for the SHSP. Results of the Data Analysis component included confirming the status of the existing SHSP High Priority Challenge Areas and highlighting the need for enhanced equity-related data.

The Evaluation of Completed SHSP Actions included a qualitative assessment of achievements for individual actions as compared with originally established performance measures. Out of the 78 actions, 24 (31%) of them are complete. These actions include efforts such as development and implementation of new policies, pilot programs, guidance, and educational programs that all work to implement the SHSP and help attain the SHSP goal. Some accomplishments include a collection of MPO equity area GIS files from across the state to share and enhance data analysis efforts, and the inclusion and promotion of installing edge-lines statewide as a set-aside for local funding under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

SHSP processes were also assessed as part of the Mid-Term Evaluation, with an eye towards assessing the institutionalization of each of the four Guiding Principles, action development efforts, Challenge Area Team coordination, and stakeholder engagement and outreach activities. Some of the recommended process improvements include strengthening opportunities for increased coordination between the 16 Challenge Area Teams and the development of an SHSP-driven awards program to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned while also recognizing safety innovators across California.

All three components of the Mid-Term Evaluation were presented to the Executive Leadership Committee on September 21, and the SHSP Team is currently working to implement many of the resulting recommendations to make the SHSP even stronger in terms of collaborative, data-driven safety planning for public roads in California.

SHSP COMPLETED ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHT – MPO EQUITY AREAS GIS FILES

As new SHSP actions aimed at achieving Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries are being adopted statewide, many actions in the existing [SHSP Implementation Plan](#) are also being completed. A recently completed action is Steering Committee-led Action 11 (SC.11). SC.11 originated out of the SHSP Equity-Related Data Working Group, which is composed of a subset of Steering Committee member organizations, and whose charge is to look for ways to enhance equity-related data analyses in the context of the SHSP.

SC.11 involved acquiring equity priority community and High Injury Network (HIN) geographic information systems (GIS) files from several of the large metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in California to enable this information to be used in the SHSP. For example, these region-specific data layers can be integrated into the Crash Data Dashboard to enable equity overlays onto safety data. This action applies a data-driven approach to identify areas at higher risk for traffic fatalities and serious injuries. The data collected will support improved decision-making related to developing safer roads, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. This action was led by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and was completed in April of 2023.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT: CALIFORNIA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

By Chief John Geissberger, Albany Police Department

California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents police chiefs and their agencies in California through training, advocacy and providing an informational and communication resource for members.

In May of 2023 CPCA launched a Traffic Safety Committee comprised of municipal police departments from northern, central, and southern California, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This committee will meet bi-monthly to create an informational platform to help address public safety impacts from fatal and serious injury crashes in our communities. This committee will support the SHSP by reviewing and making recommendations on policies and new legislation, as well as collaborating with our traffic safety partners to help develop and improve traffic safety programs throughout the state. Some of the areas the Committee will be exploring will be ways to increase traffic enforcement with limited staffing resources, community education and involvement, training, the creation of a best practices manual, and an online traffic-focused training portal. To learn more about CPCA, visit californiapolicechiefs.org.

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, including whether a fatal or serious injury crash was within five miles of a tribal boundary. Reminder, the California SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities Dataset (2022) has been added to the Location tab within the SHSP Crash Data Dashboard. If you are unfamiliar with the Crash Data Dashboard, there is a user guide and videos in both English and Spanish.

[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. 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 highlight success stories on the SHSP website and in future newsletters.

[Share Your Story](#)



UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS

- **September 2023, TRENDS launches “Steer Clear – Decide to Drive Sober” education program**

This free 30-minute online course aims to prevent teen impaired driving. Topics covered include: facts about alcohol and cannabis, risks and consequences of impaired driving, California DUI laws, and strategies for teens to stay safe. The course is self-paced and interactive, and can be added to school curriculum. To learn more, visit the [Steer Clear website](#).

- **November 7–8, 2023, California Traffic Safety Summit – Responding to the Crisis Together: Prioritizing Safety and Equitable Outcomes, Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove**

Join highway safety, public health, law enforcement and business leaders November 7–8 in Orange County for the California Traffic Safety Summit. The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and American Automobile Association (AAA) are teaming up to collaborate with other traffic safety stakeholders on how to address the ongoing roadway safety crisis, and the future of traffic safety. There will be a variety of workshops and sessions focused on vulnerable road users, impaired driving, equity in traffic safety and emerging, evidence-based data tools. To register, visit the [registration page](#).



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 achieving zero 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