

Traffic Safety Policy Priority: Safe Systems Intersections

Description:

Nevada specific crash data shows that reducing intersection crashes is critical to the reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes throughout the system. The 2021-2025 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) indicates that 35% of the fatal and serious injury crashes occurred in an intersection. Nevada and the Southern Nevada RTC are designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Focus Approach to Safety as an intersection focused state due to the high number of intersection fatalities. This designation is based on FHWA data analysis that identifies overrepresentation within the Focus Areas.

A safe systems intersection design policy can include strategies such as:

- Minimizing and modifying conflict points
- Reducing speed of vehicles
- Improving visibility at intersections
- Providing space and protection for pedestrians and bicyclist

Safe systems intersections are built to accommodate the needs of all users. Many of the intersections in the transportation system today were constructed at a time when the emphasis was moving automobiles not people. The present and future focus is on all road users. An effective complete intersections policy will ensure cohesive action strategies that create a safe and homogenous roadway.

The most recent Fatalities Reporting System (FARS) data Nevada Specific data (2017-2021) shows that 526 of the 1661 fatalities (32%) occurred at intersections. Of these 526 fatalities, 136 involved a pedestrian, 17 involved a bicyclist and 147 involved speeding. Safe systems intersections serve as a focus point for Safe Systems approach principles:

- Death and Serious Injuries are Unacceptable
- Humans Make Mistakes
- Humans Are Vulnerable
- Responsibility is Shared
- Safety is Proactive
- Redundancy is Crucial

These benefits of focusing on safe systems intersections provide positive steps toward the SHSP goal of Zero Fatalities by 2050.

Data to Support:

[Focused Approach to Safety | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Nevada Fars Data 2017-2021 [Microsoft Power BI](#)

Subject Matter Expert(s):

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Resources & Reference:

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/intersection-safety/safe-system-intersections>

[Don't Give Up at the Intersection | National Association of City Transportation Officials \(nacto.org\)](#)

[A Safe System-Based Framework and Analytical Methodology for Assessing \(dot.gov\)](#)

Submitted By:

Task force or working group Intersection CEA.

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