



Scan Team Report
NCHRP Project 20 68A, Scan 09 04

Leading Practices for Motorcyclist Safety

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Executive Summary

In March and April 2011, a team of transportation professionals with expertise in highway design, maintenance, data collection and analysis, and motorcyclist safety issues held discussions with representatives from five states, four motorcycle rider advocacy groups, and one manufacturer on infrastructure issues relating to enhancing motorcyclist safety. The scan team focused on infrastructure, event management and travel planning, data collection and analysis, and communication and coordination as topics for discussion. The scan team chose specific states and organizations because of their innovative approaches to enhancing motorcyclist safety and their unique circumstances in hosting major riding events. The team invited motorcycle rider advocacy groups to participate because of their unique interests in promoting rider safety.

The scan team traveled to Florida, Maryland, and Wisconsin. In addition to officials from various organizations in these states, the team met with representatives from South Dakota, Idaho, and the American Motorcyclist Association, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, the Motorcycle Industry Council, and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, as well as with individuals from Harley-Davidson USA, and American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) of Florida Inc.

Summary of Findings

The scan team gathered information on a broad array of topics and identified some effective practices that could be adopted at the state, city, and county levels. The team reviewed specific approaches to planning, design, operations, maintenance, and communications. These approaches are described in this report.

The team strongly endorses the concept of a motorcycle safety coalition in each state, with a membership representative of all stakeholders in the state. The coalitions provide perspective on the unique riding and handling characteristics of motorized two- and three-wheeled vehicles that are affected by roadway design, construction, and maintenance practices. The most effective coalitions serve as advisory bodies to heads of transportation departments. Formal business plans and frequent, regularly scheduled meetings provide opportunities for timely feedback on current and emerging safety issues. These advisory groups are effective in raising awareness of motorcycling issues among transportation officials, engineering and maintenance personnel, and the traveling public.

The states included in this domestic scan have adopted practices and protocols for highway design, construction, operations, and maintenance that are intended to enhance motorcycling safety. In addition, some of the states have created targeted programs to promote safety at large-scale annual rallies and at popular, but challenging, riding locations. The impetus for many of these programs was the growing awareness of the rising number of motorcyclist fatalities. Riding enthusiasts have increased the awareness of transportation professionals

and other stakeholders of the motorcycle's unique operating parameters.

Discussions with motorcycle rider advocacy groups reinforced the importance of addressing specific infrastructure conditions and standard practices. The advocates represented those who may be significantly affected by roadway design and conditions.

The scan team organized its inquiries around a list of amplifying questions that focused on infrastructure, travel planning and event management, data collection, and communication and outreach, but also touched on behavioral, safety, and legal issues. The topic headings in this report reflect these amplifying questions, and a summary of findings for each area is provided.

This information provided in this report's appendices is as follows:

- Appendix A: Amplifying Questions
- Appendix B: Scan Team Contact Information
- Appendix C: Scan Team Biographical Sketches
- Appendix D: Itinerary and Meeting Schedule
- Appendix E: Host Agency Key Contacts
- Appendix F: Colorado Milling Specification
- Appendix G: References and Additional Internet Resources