

NCHRP 20-68A – “US Domestic Scan Program”
Scan 12-03 Advances in Safety Program Practices in “Zero-Fatalities” States

Description of Scan

AASHTO is engaged in developing a national strategy on highway safety, titled “Toward Zero Deaths” (TZD). This national strategy is building on the experiences gained in safety planning and implementation efforts implemented to date. In developing this strategy AASHTO is reaching out to stakeholders that highway infrastructure professionals do not typically interact with. Also, the national strategy is including an emphasis on safety culture as it relates to both road users in general and to highway agencies that need to balance safety with other factors in their decision-making process.

All states have developed Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSP), and many states have updated their plans at least once. Each SHSP has a highway fatality reduction goal, and several states have set their goals at zero.

Such a goal has been controversial, with the main questions being:

- What does a zero fatality goal mean to a state and what does this mean to the state’s SHSP?
- What are the performance measures in place for a zero fatality state?
- What are the consequences if an agency does not meet its goal of zero fatalities?
- How can a non-zero goal (such as 475 fatalities) be acceptable?

The scan team will examine practices in states counties, metropolitan areas and municipalities that have highway safety goals of zero fatalities. The team will examine topics such as:

- The agency’s management philosophy
- Public attitude towards established goals
- collaboration with existing and non-traditional safety partners,
- Reaching consensus with all stakeholders on an aggressive highway safety goal.
- Developing a culture of safety and collaboration among partner agencies and associations.
- Developing, Implementing and Evaluating and modifying their SHSP based on the aggressive goal.
- Marketing a zero fatality goal to agency leadership and staff, safety partners, and the public.

Those agencies that have adopted a zero goal have overcome challenges related to establishing the goal and to implementing their SHSPs. It is anticipated that information documented by the scan team from these agencies would support other agencies working on updating their SHSPs to include a TZD goal and could also contribute to the national effort being led by AASHTO.

Original Scan Proposal Title(s): DSP-13-16 Noteworthy Practices of Zero Fatalities States

Last Reviewed/Revised January 7, 2012

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Execution Schedule

Milestone	Anticipated Date
Chairs and Team Members Identified	March 2013
Desk Scan Completed	August 2013
Prescan Meeting Held	August 2013
Scan Conducted	March 2014
Draft PowerPoint submitted by SME	April 2014
Draft Report Delivered to NCHRP and Panel	June 2014
Final Report Delivered to NCHRP	September 2014

Estimated Scan Cost: \$150,000

Anticipated Duration: 2 weeks

Last Reviewed/Revised September 16, 2013