



# AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan

## **A Comprehensive Plan to Substantially Reduce Vehicle-Related Fatalities and Injuries on the Nation's Highways**

The AASHTO Board of Directors first approved this document in December 1997 by more than the required two-thirds majority vote. It was revised and updated with current data in December 2004, but the emphasis areas and strategies identified in the original plan remain the same.

The NCHRP Series 500 guides referred to throughout this document provide updated strategies for significantly reducing roadway injuries and fatalities.

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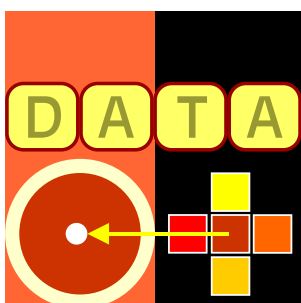
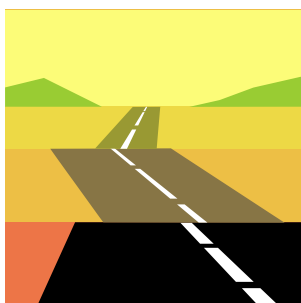
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# Introduction

A child born today can expect to live an average of 78 years. That's the good news. The bad news is that one out of every 90 children born today will die violently in a motor vehicle crash. And 70 of every 100 will be injured in a highway crash at some point during their lives, many more than once.

Beginning a life with such high potential for motor vehicle-related death and injury is unnecessary and should not be acceptable in today's society, because the means to prevent significant numbers of highway crashes, deaths, and injuries are readily available.

A well-planned, coordinated approach to improving roadway safety that involves all elements of the traffic safety community focuses on low-cost, day-to-day improvements, and effectively implements new strategies can substantially reduce the nation's highway death toll and improve the future outlook for today's new citizens.

This *Strategic Highway Safety Plan* (SHSP) and the tools developed to facilitate its implementation offer state and local transportation and safety agencies a life-saving blueprint ready for application in developing comprehensive highway safety plans.

