

HIGHWAY SAFETY DESIGN and OPERATIONS GUIDE 1997



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of STATE
HIGHWAY and TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET NW SUITE 249
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001**

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PREFACE

In 1967, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) published a committee report titled *Highway Design and Operational Practices Related to Highway Safety*. This report subsequently became known as the “Yellow Book.” It included discussion, comments, and recommendations concerning a wide range of issues related to highway design practices.

The Yellow Book also addressed safety on roads and streets under the control of state and local highway agencies. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) strongly endorsed the Yellow Book for application to highways with design speeds in excess of 50 miles per hour (mph) (80 kilometers per hour [km/h]) and to projects with lower design speeds to the extent practical.

The Yellow Book was updated, expanded, and issued in a revised form in 1974. The publication has heightened the awareness of highway planners, designers, and operators to the need for

incorporating safety into their processes and procedures.

In October 1991, the FHWA presented the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety with a draft proposed replacement to the Yellow Book. The proposed replacement focused on new information as well as emphasized current well-known safety practices that are still not being fully used. The committee agreed to take the lead in finalizing the proposed guide with technical assistance and support from the FHWA.

This resulting document, the *Highway Safety Design and Operations Guide*, presents concepts for enhancing safety in the operation and management of highways. It represents the culmination of past efforts combined with the results of research and proven engineering practices. This publication contains those state-of-the-art technologies that must be applied to achieve a safe level of traffic operations in the constantly changing environment of the nation’s highway network.