

Request for Comments and Information

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/03/2023-02285/improving-road-safety-for-all-users-on-federal-aid-projects>

The FHWA requests comments on the following questions. Please indicate in your written comments which question(s) you are answering.

Improving Road Safety for All Users

1. What steps are being taken by your agency (if you are commenting on behalf of an agency) or an agency you are familiar with to improve safety for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles? How are equity and demographic data considered?
2. For agencies that have adopted Complete Streets standards or policies (or similar policies), what benefits does your agency see in developing Complete Streets? Provide examples and citations to relevant regulations, policies, procedures, performance measures, or other materials where possible.
3. For agencies that have adopted Complete Streets standards or policies (or similar policies), what challenges has your agency experienced when implementing your Complete Streets policy?
4. For agencies that have adopted Complete Streets standards or policies (or similar policies), but have not adopted an alternative classification system, how do you identify the appropriate context(s) for the application of a complete streets design model? Under what types of circumstances have you found the development of Complete Streets to be inappropriate?
5. To inform decisions on street design, some agencies ^[18] have adopted modal hierarchies, or alternative street classification systems, that prioritize pedestrians, bicyclists, or others on certain street types based on context.^[19] Has your agency incorporated such a hierarchy, or classification into agency policies, and if so, what benefits have been realized? Please provide a link to your documents for reference.

Design Standards for the NHS

6. How could the FHWA regulations governing Design Standards for Highways (Part 625) be revised to consistently support prioritization of the safety of all users across all project types?
7. What changes to other FHWA regulations codified at [Title 23, CFR](#) are needed to equitably improve safety for people of all ages and abilities who use urban and suburban streets?
8. What changes to other FHWA regulations codified at [Title 23, CFR](#) are needed to equitably improve safety for people of all ages and abilities who use rural roadways, including in rural towns?
9. What, if any, elements of design are not adequately covered by the existing design standards in Part 625?
10. What specific provisions of Part 625 present an obstacle to equitably improving safety for people outside of vehicles, and why?

11. Are there additional documents that FHWA should incorporate by reference in Part 625 to better facilitate the context-sensitive design of streets that safely serve all users? Please identify the documents and describe why they should be referenced in the regulation.
12. Does Part 625 create any impediments to developing projects that meet the goals of your agency? If so, what goals are impeded, what are the impediments, and how would you suggest the regulation be revised?

Safety Performance Assessment Applicability

13. For which current projects (*i.e.*, by improvement type, funding program/level, facility type, etc.) are safety performance assessments or analyses conducted in your State?
14. To what extent is the safety performance assessed on non-HSIP funded projects?
15. What policies or procedures on conducting project-specific safety performance assessments and analyses does your agency have? Provide examples and citations to relevant laws, regulations, policies, procedures, or other materials where possible.

Conducting a Safety Performance Assessment

16. What methods, tools, and types of safety performance assessments are used to analyze project-specific safety performance? What are the minimum data and analysis requirements that should be considered on how to conduct a safety performance assessment?
17. With whom do States engage (*i.e.* counties, cities, MPOs, rural planning organizations, and other political subdivisions) when assessing safety performance? How do States engage the public or use the safety performance assessment results to communicate to the public using inclusive and representative processes?
18. How are safety performance assessments integrated into the overall project development cycle? At which stage(s) of the project development process (*e.g.*, planning and programming, environmental analysis, design, operations and maintenance) are project-specific safety performance assessments conducted? Are evaluations conducted after the project has been implemented? Responses may include examples of projects where safety performance assessments were conducted and how they informed the final project deliverables.
19. How is safety performance assessed or considered at the system level planning or early transportation project identification/prioritization stage? How is network screening used to inform project decisionmaking?

Safety Performance Assessment Process Evaluation and Outcomes

20. What indicators or measures have been used to determine the effectiveness of safety performance assessments?
21. To what extent is the safety performance assessment or analysis used to inform project decisionmaking? How is safety performance weighted in relation to factors such as environmental impact or traffic congestion? Are there requirements to include countermeasures or evaluation of alternative designs that are expected to improve safety performance? If yes, please provide examples of the requirements or projects where the

safety performance assessment led to the implementation of countermeasures and strategies that improved safety performance.

22. How is safety performance evaluated after the project is implemented? To what extent are countermeasures, alternative designs, or strategies to improve safety performance replicated on other projects, based on past project evaluations?

Safety Performance Assessment Implementation Considerations

23. What challenges or concerns does your agency see with possible Federal requirements for safety performance assessments on certain Federal-aid projects?
24. What challenges or concerns does your agency see with possible Federal requirements for implementing cost-effective safety improvements resulting from safety performance assessments?
25. What benefits does your agency see with possible Federal requirements for safety performance assessments on certain Federal-aid projects where safety may not be the sole motivation for the project? What benefits does your agency see for any Federal requirements for cost-effective safety improvements resulting from the assessments?
26. What criteria, thresholds, characteristics, or other factors should States consider when determining when to conduct a project-specific safety performance assessment or analysis for projects on the Federal-aid highway system?
27. What additional resources (*i.e.*, staff, guidance, tools, budget, etc.) would be necessary to adequately assess the expected safety performance of Federal-aid projects?