



**CALIFORNIA
SAFE ROADS**

THE TRAFFIC SAFETY NAVIGATOR

Summer 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The Traffic Safety Navigator is the 2020–2024 California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) e-newsletter. The newsletter provides SHSP updates along with insight into best practices for implementing strategies that reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on California's roadways.

COVID-19: THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well during the historic challenges we are all facing during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. We would first like to thank first responders and all essential employees who have tirelessly worked to combat COVID-19 and its effects. This pandemic has exemplified how safety, no matter the form, is a universal need. Though the effects of COVID-19 may have paused some traffic safety-related efforts of the 2020–2024 SHSP, safety on California roadways continues to be a priority among our team. We commend several of our own Executive Leadership, Steering Committee, and Challenge Area Team members and the agencies they represent, for responding to the unprecedented demands and changes brought about by the COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 AND THE EFFECTS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY

While the effects of COVID-19 will be felt long after California returns to “normal,” agencies involved in traffic safety are already witnessing a shift in safety trends. With many Californians working from home during the height of the COVID-19 spread, peak hour traffic has been reduced, resulting in fewer roadway collisions as reported by the California Highway Patrol (CHP).



The CHP analyzed preliminary data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) and provided a summary in May 2020 of noticeable trends. The data showed a 75% decrease in the number of collisions in California this year between March 19 and April 30 as compared to the same time in 2019. The data also showed that there was an 88% reduction in the number of people killed and a 62% reduction in collision-related injuries. Additional analysis revealed that during March and April, the number of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests made by CHP officers decreased from 7,224 in 2019 to 4,223 in 2020.

However, fewer cars and less congestion have influenced the behavior of drivers still on the road, resulting in an increase in speeding and other forms of aggressive driving. From March 19 through May 19, CHP officers issued 6,043 citations for speeding in excess of 100 miles per hour. This represents a 124% increase in these citations from the 2,696 citations issued by CHP officers in 2019 for the same time period.

How do these trends and preliminary data findings affect the SHSP? As part of the 2020–2024 SHSP, collision data is reviewed to measure the effectiveness of action items. External factors, such as the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19, present a challenge to the data analysis process in determining the influence of the SHSP action items. We are developing a timeline of California’s response to COVID-19 to track what extraneous variables may bias the collision data. The SHSP Team is also utilizing publications and resources from others studying California traffic safety impacts in relation to COVID-19. This background will be helpful in establishing some context as year 2020 collision data is reviewed. The SHSP continues to strive towards zero fatalities and serious injuries on all public roadways and we will continue to support and monitor the impacts of action items set by the Challenge Area Teams.

MEET THE TEAM: CHALLENGE AREA CO-LEADS

California's sixteen Challenge Area Teams are led by Co-leads who represent stakeholders from private and public organizations who are subject matter experts or have an interest in a challenge area. The Co-leads have several responsibilities to support the progress of the SHSP. These responsibilities include:

- Scheduling and encouraging Challenge Area Team meetings to develop and implement strategic action items as detailed in the Implementation Plan
- Overseeing action item support from team members and other safety experts
- Reporting progress of the action items through communication with the Steering Committee and SHSP Team

Being a Co-lead is a large undertaking and we thank all of the Co-leads for participating in the 2020–2024 SHSP.

[Learn More](#)

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Traffic safety needs vary across states, counties, cities, neighborhoods and even specific roadways. As modernization of technology and the needs of people continue to influence how we travel, the solutions to improve traffic safety also transform.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is an advocate for evaluating roadway networks and assessing the needs of their ever-changing roadway users. The SFMTA Vision Zero Highway Injury Network and Vision Zero Quick Build tools have encouraged the city to identify and implement proven and innovative countermeasures, such as road diets and day-lighting, to reduce the number and severity of collisions on high priority roadways.

To learn more about the efforts of the SFMTA and their California Street Safety Project, click the link below.

[Read More](#)

GET INVOLVED



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

The SHSP is just the start. The 5 Es of traffic safety need to work together to implement the strategies developed in the SHSP. Involvement in the SHSP Challenge Area Team is a direct way to influence countermeasures. Volunteers are needed for all challenge areas.

Get Involved



SHARE YOUR STORIES

We want to know about your successful implementation of traffic safety countermeasures! We will be highlighting success stories on the SHSP website and in future newsletters.

Share your Story



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE TOPICS?

We want to know what topics are of interest to California! Complete our simple feedback form to provide suggestions on future newsletter topics.

Give Feedback

WHAT IS THE SHSP?

The California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a comprehensive, statewide transportation safety plan which provides a framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries across all modes of travel and on all public roads. Started in 2005, the SHSP is updated regularly to ensure continued progress and to meet changing safety needs. Currently, over 580 safety stakeholders from over 230 public and private agencies and organizations work together on this effort under the guidance of the SHSP Executive Leadership and SHSP Steering Committee. The SHSP addresses the 5 Es of traffic safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Emergency Response, and Emerging Technologies.



VISION

Safe public roads across California



MISSION

Ensure safety for all modes of travel on California's public roads



GOAL

Toward Zero Fatalities and Serious Injuries

[Learn More](#)

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the California SHSP, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/shsp>

Questions? Comments? Email to SHSP@dot.ca.gov