

## ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH WORKSHOP

### *Background*

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's early estimates show that a projected 40,990 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2023, a 3.6% decrease from 2022<sup>1</sup>. This is still unacceptable, as no person should have to die while using the roadway system. To accelerate the reduction in deaths, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has adopted a Safe System Approach (SSA) that accommodates human error and understands that human bodies have limited ability to tolerate crash impacts. To advance implementation of the SSA, FHWA developed three (3) resources for measuring SSA alignment – Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, Safe System Project-Based Alignment Framework, and Safe System Policy-Based Alignment Framework.

### *Description*

This workshop provides an overview of the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, and depending on which workshop option you choose, one or both Safe System Alignment Frameworks. At the end of the workshop, you will be able to identify and prioritize engineering-related countermeasures and strategies that align with the SSA. You will also be able to identify opportunities to better align projects or policies with the Safe System principles.

### *Outcomes:*

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy.
- Characterize engineering-related countermeasures and strategies relative to their alignment with the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy.
- Understand and apply the Project-Based and Policy-Based Alignment Frameworks.
- Identify opportunities to align projects or policies with the Safe System principles.
- Advance implementation of the SSA in projects and policies.

### *Target Audience*

Federal, State, and local highway engineers and planners involved in project or policy development that impact roadway safety.

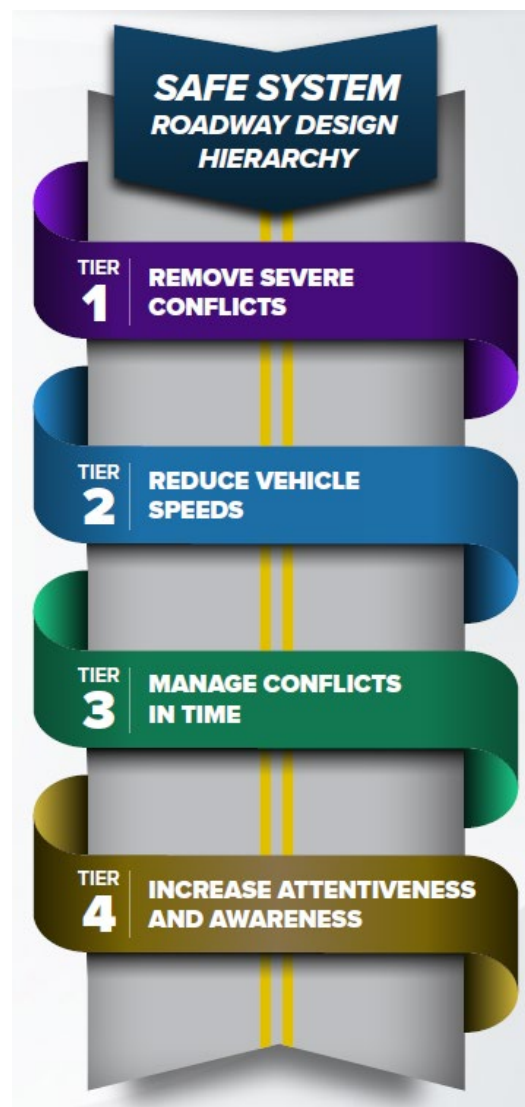


Figure 1 Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy

<sup>1</sup> <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813561>

## Workshop Options

There are three different options for the Advancing Implementation of the Safe System Approach Workshop. All workshop options are in-person. It may be possible to tailor one of these options to meet individual agency needs.



**Conference Workshop:** A four-hour workshop held as part of a larger conference. This workshop will provide an overview of the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy and the Safe System Project-based Alignment Framework. Participants will then break-out into smaller groups to apply the Project-based Alignment Framework to an instructor-selected segment or intersection and report back on findings and recommendations. Similar workshops were held at the Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Meetings in 2023. [Maximum Participants = 50]



**Project-based Workshop:** A multi-day workshop hosted by a State, regional, local, or Tribal agency. The host agency will select a local project to review using the Project-based Framework. Day 1 of the Project-based workshop mirrors the conference workshop, concluding with an overview and discussion of the agency selected location. On subsequent day(s), participants will complete a field review of the project location, identifying safety issues and potential Safe System solutions. [Maximum Participants = 20-30]



**Policy-based Workshop:** A one-day workshop hosted by a State, regional, local, or Tribal agency. The host agency will select a policy to review using the Safe System Policy-based Alignment Framework. The Policy-based workshop includes an overview of the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, as well as both the Project-based and Policy-based Alignment Frameworks. Instructors will then facilitate a discussion of the policy identified by the host agency using the Policy-based Alignment Framework to determine current Safe System alignment and opportunities to improve the policy moving forward.

*[Note: The Policy-based workshop may occur over two non-consecutive days. The first day (could be virtual) will provide an overview of the Safe System alignment resources. Participants will then individually review the policy using the Policy-based Alignment Framework and then reconvene on another day to come to consensus on findings and opportunities.]*

**If you have questions or would like to host this workshop,** please contact Karen Scurry, FHWA Office of Safety, at [karen.scurry@dot.gov](mailto:karen.scurry@dot.gov) or 202-897-7168.

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