



INTRODUCTION

Transportation safety is a priority of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and is rooted within the Department's mission and policies to minimize the number of deaths, injuries and crashes on Wisconsin roadways. The WisDOT mission statement is: *"Provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system."* This is accomplished through a comprehensive approach which focuses on:

- Working with partners throughout Wisconsin to identify and resolve safety issues
- Gathering, analyzing, and reporting data on traffic crashes and injuries, and then using that data to inform policies, investments, and enforcement of safe operations on state highways and Interstates
- Managing state and federal funds to build safer infrastructure on our roads, rail system, and at our state's airports
- Conducting public outreach and education campaigns, including those focused on pedestrian and bicyclist safety

These tasks are supported by numerous programs, initiatives, and diverse workgroups across the State with the goal of improving safety for all users. Traffic safety involves all aspects of a transportation system and is not limited to just vehicle crashes. Maintenance items such as winter plowing operations, signing, and marking replacement, mowing operations, and roadside facility improvements are examples of focus areas which lead to a safe and efficient transportation system.

WisDOT takes a multifaceted approach to roadway safety by addressing issues through engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical services. These four areas are critical in the development of a safe and efficient roadway system but ultimately it is up to everyone to keep the Wisconsin transportation system safe.

This chapter provides guidance on safety initiatives within traffic safety planning as well as safety analysis methodologies and countermeasure information.