



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration



FHWA SAFETY ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S NEW

National Work Zone Awareness Week 2003

National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 6 – 12, 2003. A National Press Event will be held on April 8th at 10:00 a.m. at Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC. FHWA Administrator Mary E. Peters will speak at the event along with Congressman Inslee of Washington State and other dignitaries.

Over the last five years, the number of persons killed in motor vehicle crashes in work zones has gone from 693 in 1997 to a high of 1,079 in 2001 (for an average of 888 fatalities per year).

The message for this year's campaign is: In 2001, over 1,000 people lost their life in a highway work zone crash. **Four out of five were motorists. Don't add to the numbers – Stay Alert and Obey the Speed Limit!**

Posters have been distributed nationwide, and plans are underway in most States to make April 6 – 12 National Work Zone Awareness Week! For more information, and to download the poster see <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>.

Announcements

The Office of Safety is pleased to announce that Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) Alicandri has been selected for promotion to Office Director, Office of Safety Programs, filling the vacancy created when Janet Coleman retired in January. Beth has been with FHWA since 1989 and has held several positions at Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (TFHRC) and within the Office of Safety. She has established an excellent working relationship with safety specialists across FHWA field offices and most recently was the co-team leader of the DOT Speed Management Team.

Mr. Mike Griffith has joined the Office of Safety on a temporary assignment as the Acting Director of the Office of Safety Design. Mike, who is currently with RD&T at TFHRC has extensive experience in highway safety issues and has served in several safety positions at TFHRC during his career. He will provide valuable insight and perspective and be an important resource for the Office of Safety during his temporary assignment.

American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) Award

Mr. Rudolph M. Umbs, FHWA's Chief Highway Safety Engineer, is the recipient of ATSSA'S 2002 National Safety Award for his many contributions to roadway safety. ATSSA presented this well deserved award to Rudy during its annual convention in New Orleans.

Safety Leadership Award

The Safety Leadership Award was presented to Mr. Patrick Hasson, Field Safety Specialist in the FHWA Resource Center, Midwest. This award is presented every year by the FHWA field safety staff to a field safety specialist who is doing an outstanding job of promoting road safety. The award recognizes Pat's dedication to road safety and the support he has provided to the safety programs, especially his commitment in bringing the **Stop Red Light Running** initiative to the traffic safety engineering community and his leadership in the development and presentation of several training courses on safety.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration



Special Safety Issue of *Public Roads*

The January/February 2003 issue of *Public Roads* is devoted to Highway Safety. The issue includes ongoing research and programs that FHWA is using to improve highway safety. If you would like a copy, please contact Ann Walls (202) 366-6836 or Jack Jernigan (202) 493-3363. You may also view the issue on the web at <http://www.tfhr.gov/pubrds/03jan/index.htm>.

Pedestrian Safety Campaign

FHWA's Safety Office will complete its Pedestrian Safety Campaign materials by the end of March. The Pedestrian Safety Campaign is a **FREE** ready-made toolkit of outreach materials that States and communities can customize and use locally. The threefold purpose of the campaign is to (1) sensitize drivers to the fact that pedestrians are legitimate road users and should always be expected on or near the roadway, (2) educate pedestrians about minimizing risks to their safety, and (3) develop program materials to explain or enhance the operation of pedestrian facilities, such as crosswalks and pedestrian signals. Campaign materials will be unveiled and available for viewing at the Lifesavers Conference in early March.

The Pedestrian Safety Campaign toolkit includes materials designed for use in television, radio, cinema, and print advertising. Some of the materials included are in Spanish. States and local communities would be responsible for implementing the campaign through local television and radio stations and print media. A **Campaign Planning Guide** that explains in detail how to implement the campaign successfully at the local level is also included. In the near future, we will be looking for a few local communities to possibly demo and test the materials developed. Aida Berkovitz, NHTSA liaison in San Francisco, CA, and Frank Julian, Safety Specialist in the FHWA's Southern Resource Center, will be coordinating the effort.

For more information on the campaign, contact Tamara Redmon at tamara.redmon@fhwa.dot.gov (phone: 202-366-4077) or Levenson Boodlal at leverson.boodlal@fhwa.dot.gov (phone: 202-366-8044).

FHWA To Sponsor Retroreflectivity Train-The-Trainer Workshops for LTAP Personnel

The FHWA has contracted with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to develop and conduct train-the-trainer workshops on sign retroreflectivity, which will be used specifically for future presentation by the LTAP trainers.

These workshops will cover the principles of retroreflectivity, the research that led to the development of retroreflectivity guidelines, the actual guidelines and how to apply them, how to conduct nighttime field inspections to comply with the guidelines, and measurement of retroreflective values with retroreflectometer instruments.

A train-the-trainer manual and the complete workshop presentation materials will be provided to the trainers in electronic format. TTI will provide information and suggestions to the participants on how to develop their own demonstration materials.

Four workshops will be conducted in the summer and fall of 2003 in College Station, Texas. Each LTAP Center will receive an invitation to send one trainer from their center.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration



Two other products from FHWA on nighttime visibility include:

Night Lights – How Retroreflectivity Makes Our Roads Safer video
Retroreflectivity Sheeting Identification Guide

These products have been distributed to the LTAP Centers.

For additional information, please visit the FHWA retroreflectivity web site at

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/retroref.htm> or contact Peter Hatzi at peter.hatzi@fhwa.dot.gov, Kenneth Opiela at kenneth.opiela@fhwa.dot.gov, or Greg Schertz at greg.schertz@fhwa.dot.gov.

AASHTO Roadside Design Guide, Web Based Training

NHI Course Number: 380032C

This web-based course is approximately 14 hours and is available anytime – 24 hours, 365 days a year via the Internet. The cost for non-FHWA employees is \$230 per participant and includes a copy of the 2002 AASHTO “Roadside Design Guide”.

The course provides an overview of the 2002 AASHTO “Roadside Design Guide.” Emphasis is on current highway agency policies and practices. Participants must register online at www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/registerdl.asp

Computer Requirements: You will need a fairly recent version of a browser (such as Internet Explorer 4 or 5 or Netscape 4 with JavaScript enabled), the latest version of Macromedia Shockwave and Flash (which you can download), and a connection to the Internet (at least 56K modem). An older computer such as a Pentium 100 would work but it would just be slower than a Pentium III.

For more information visit <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov>

AVAILABLE TRAINING

The FHWA Safety Office has two highly rated, 8-hour workshops that are being offered to local traffic engineers at no cost!

Older Driver Highway Design Workshop uses interactive methods to help participants fully understand the changes that occur with aging, identifies modifications in the roadway system that can make things easier for older drivers (and all drivers) and give participants a chance to engage in case studies. **If you are interested, please contact your local FHWA Resource Center.**

Eastern Resource Center: Tom Breslin tom.breslin@fhwa.dot.gov 518-431-4224 X231

Southern Resource Center: Eric Worrell eric.worrell@fhwa.dot.gov 404-562-3684

Midwestern Resource Center: Pat Hasson patrick.hasson@fhwa.dot.gov 708-283-3595

Western Resource Center: Keith Harrison keith.harrison@fhwa.dot.gov 415-744-2657

Human Factors for Transportation Engineers Workshop uses a range of interactive exercises to describe the skills and capabilities drivers need to use our roadways, discusses the relationship between specific highway standards and human needs, and includes “micro” case studies to allow participants to apply what they have learned. Workshops are now scheduled for:

April 9 – Oregon

April 11 – Oregon

May 6 – Helena, MT

May 8 – Billings, Montana





U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration



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If you are interested, please contact Beth Alicandri, beth.alicandri@fhwa.dot.gov 202-366-6409.

New Training Package

A training package that complements the FHWA Guidebook "Maintenance of Signs and Signs Supports on Local Roads and Streets" was developed by the Pennsylvania LTAP Center. As a non-linear Power Point presentation, the package allows presenters and users to address any combinations of units, depending on the time, audience, and discussion. For a copy of a CD-ROM or additional information, contact Lisa Pogue at the LTAP Clearinghouse (lpogue@apwa.net or 202-408-9541 X3012).

Two New Safety Brochures will soon be Available on the FHWA Safety Web Site, <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>.

The "Safety Edge" brochure is on preventing crashes caused by unsafe pavement edge drop-offs. Offers simple and cost-effective solutions.

The second brochure promotes a new report "Guidance on Traffic Control Devices at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings" by the U.S. DOT's Highway/Rail Grade Crossing Technical Working Group. The report is intended to help engineers assess driver needs, specify appropriate passive and active traffic control devices and systems, and evaluate potential roadway design improvements.

Both brochures will be in full-color and available for downloading and printing off the safety web site. You can also receive an electronic copy of the brochures by sending a request to ann.walls@fhwa.dot.gov.

Roundabout Design - An introductory workshop that covers chapters of the FHWA's "Roundabouts: An Informational Guide." This course was initially developed by the TFHRC and now enhanced and available from both the Olympia Fields and Atlanta offices of the Resource Center. Contact Eric Worrell, Atlanta Office - 404-562-3684 eric.worrell@fhwa.dot.gov or Patrick Hasson (Olympia Fields Office - 708-283-3595 patrick.hasson@fhwa.dot.gov) to schedule workshops in summer or fall FY03.

News From Safety R&D

The 2003 public release of the Interactive Highway Safety Design Model (IHSDM) is now available. Distribution is via download through the IHSDM web site, <http://www.tfhrc.gov/safety/ihsdm/ihsdm.htm>. The download is free-of-charge. The IHSDM web site also contains information on technical support for users of the software, a soon-to-be-released update to the IHSDM Preview CD-ROM, and an electronic library of the research reports underlying IHSDM development.



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Saving Lives – A Vital Goal

Vision: Improving Transportation for a Strong America.

Goal: To continually improve highway safety by reducing the number of highway fatalities and injuries including large trucks. Ensuring safe travel on highways is a guiding principle throughout the FHWA.

Focus: High-risk areas through technical assistance, research, training, data analysis, and public information as well as through compliance and education. The FHWA is working with safety partners to heighten safety awareness within the highway community, business, industry, and the Public.

Top Priorities: Roadway Departure, Intersections, and Pedestrians.



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EVENTS AND MEETINGS		
Dates	Location	Event
2003		
March 9 – 11	Chicago, IL	Lifesavers National Conference http://www.lifesaversconference.org
March 23 – 27	Biloxi, MS	NACE Annual Meeting www.naco.org
April 7 – 11	Nationwide	National Work Zone Awareness Week http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov
May 11 – 17	Nationwide	National Transportation Week
May 19 – 26	Nationwide	Buckle Up America! Week http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov
May 19 – June 1	Nationwide	Click It or Ticket Mobilization http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov
June 14 – 17	Louisville, KY	International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Highway Safety Meeting
June 22 – 25	Reno, NV	International Conference on Low Volume Roads http://www.trb.org/
July 13 – 17	Denver, CO	Traffic Records Forum
July 27 – 31	Honolulu, HI	National LTAP Meeting http://www.ltap.org/
August 24 – 27	Seattle, WA	ITE Annual Meeting & Exhibit http://www.ite.org/
August 24 – 27	New Orleans, LA	Governors Highway Safety Association www.statehighwaysafety.org
August 24 – 27	San Diego, CA	American Public Works Association (APWA) http://www.apwa.net/
September 5 – 12	Chicago, IL	National Safety Council Annual Congress & Expo http://www.nsc.org/
September 5 – 9	Minneapolis, MN	2003 AASHTO Annual Meeting www.aashto.org
September 6 – 12	Nationwide	National Stop on Red Week http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov
October 10	Nationwide	Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day www.brakesonfatalities.org
October 21 – 25	Philadelphia, PA	International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference
November 2 – 5	San Antonio, TX	National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference
November 12 – 15	Nashville, TN	American Society of Civil Engineers Conference www.asce.org
November 18 – December 1	Nationwide	Click It or Ticket Mobilization http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov

For a complete listing of FHWA Safety Programs and Resources

Visit our website at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

