In 2019, 36,096 people died in traffic crashes in the United States. That same year, traffic crashes injured more than 2.7 million people.¹ In 2020, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) provided States more than $2.4 billion in Federal funds to address road safety challenges on all public roads, including non-State-owned roads and roads on Tribal land.² Focusing on performance, the HSIP takes a data-driven, strategic approach to improve highway safety.

FUNDING SAFETY PROJECTS

Every year, States receive an apportionment of HSIP funding for highway safety improvement projects that are consistent with the State’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Eligible projects must address a highway safety problem or correct/improve a hazardous road location/feature.³ Projects must also be identified on the basis of crash experience, potential, rate, or other data.⁴ For HSIP eligibility guidance, see https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/rulemaking/docs/BIL_HSIP_Eligibility_Guidance.pdf.

HSIP in 2020

68% of highway safety improvement projects occurred on roads owned by the State Department of Transportation.

70% of highway safety improvement projects fell into the following safety treatment categories:
- roadway (24%)
- intersection traffic control (21%)
- roadside (12%)
- intersection geometry (12%)

35 States had roadway departure programs.

47 States had intersection improvement programs.

18 States had roadway departure programs.

11 States had intersection improvement programs.

35

47

18

11

States with roadway departure programs

States with intersection improvement programs

$5.5 billion

5,300 highway safety improvement projects.

This information comes from 2020 State HSIP reports. For individual reports, visit https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/reports/.

² FHWA, “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act or FAST ‘Act’” (February 2016), https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/hsipfs.cfm. The most recent year for crash data is 2019. Local and Tribal roadways are considered those with ownership category attribute codes 2, 3, 4, 12, 25, 32, 50, 62.
**Project Costs**

About 34 percent of HSIP projects cost less than $100,000.

Among HSIP projects, State highway agency projects had the highest average total cost per project at $1.4 million. City or municipal highway agency projects had the second highest average at $900,000, and other local agency projects had the third highest average at $600,000.

Of the HSIP projects with identified area types, 54 percent were rural and 46 percent were urban. The average total cost of urban projects ($1.2 million) was higher than rural projects ($923,000).

Shoulder treatments, interchange designs, and roadside projects had the highest average cost per project ($0.9–$2.2 million).

Roadway signs and traffic controls, railroad crossings, and speed management projects had the lowest average cost per project ($200,000–$300,000).

**THE ROAD TO HSIP FUNDING**

A local or State agency identifies a safety issue—such as frequent lane departure crashes—through such methods as site analysis, systemic safety analysis, and targeted studies.

The agency identifies countermeasures—such as rumble strips—using sources such as FHWA proven safety countermeasures or Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse (CMF).

SHSP emphasis areas help identify problems, and data-driven safety analysis tools support network screening.

SHSP strategies support countermeasure selection.

SHSP strategies support countermeasure selection.

Project prioritizations align with SHSP priorities and action plans.

Highway safety improvement projects are consistent with the State’s SHSP.

Projects are prioritized and put on State’s HSIP project list to maximize lives saved.

Project is programmed and scheduled on the State’s statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).

Performance measures and evaluations help track and improve SHSP implementation efforts.

Project is evaluated to determine how effective the solutions were in improving roadway safety.

To find out how HSIP can help save lives in your community, contact your State DOT:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/webstate.cfm

Have an HSIP success story? Share your projects on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with #HSIPSavesLives.