

Connecticut & Tennessee Fund Pedestrian Safety

DOTs Use Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding to Provide Exemplary Focus on Pedestrian Safety

Sponsoring Agency: Connecticut and Tennessee Departments of Transportation (CTDOT and TDOT)

Implementation Date: 2015 and on-going

CDOT URL: <https://ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3199&q=526424>

TDOT URL: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/strategic-transportation-investments/project-safety-office.html>

Summary

Both States are using the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to target pedestrian safety projects. TDOT will use at least 10 percent of its HSIP funding to counter an increasing number of serious and fatal crashes involving pedestrians. CTDOT has taken a more programmatic approach, but has easily surpassed a 10-percent threshold in recent years by updating every crosswalk on its State highway system with high visibility crosswalk markings and warning signs.

Highlights

In 2015, TDOT added a vulnerable users' emphasis area in the Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) to focus on reducing fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians. To this end, TDOT has dedicated a percentage of its HSIP funds consistent with its pedestrian fatality rate (approximately 11 percent) to implement pedestrian safety countermeasures. This Pedestrian Road Safety Initiative included the identification of pedestrian high crash intersections and corridors Statewide. Future project selection for pedestrian safety projects will also include equity, existing infrastructure supply, and anticipated infrastructure demand. Where applicable, pedestrian safety countermeasures will be also included in all traditional HSIP funded projects even though projects may have been selected to address motorist safety.

New Crosswalk Markings and Pedestrian Refuge Island



Image Source: Toole Design

CTDOT has used an agency-wide approach to address pedestrian safety including policy, planning, and engineering/design. While policy and planning support comes from the Department's Complete Streets Policy, the SHSP, and the Statewide pedestrian plan, engineering and design efforts are largely funded as initiatives through HSIP including:

- Replacing school warning signs Statewide with high reflective yellow-green signs to enhance visibility.
- Replacing, enhancing, or installing warning signs at all marked crosswalks on State routes.
- Restriping every crosswalk on the State highway system with high-visibility markings.