THE SAFETY EDGE
What Is the Safety Edge?
Key Message

• **Saves Lives**
  – Drop-offs are a safety challenge

• **Low Cost**
  – Safety Edge can mitigate shoulder drop-off

• **Improves Durability**
  – Safety Edge can increase pavement edge durability
Basic Principle

Conventional Paving

Paving with Safety Edge

Safety Edge Installation: Georgia
The Safety Edge: Purpose and Need
2009 Fatal Crashes (Based on FARS)

33,808 U.S. Fatalities

18,087 U.S. Roadway Departure Fatalities

- ROAD WAY DEPARTURE CRASHES 53%
- RUN OFF ROAD LEFT 10%
- RUN OFF ROAD RIGHT 24%
- CROSOSVERS 17%
- UNKNOWN ROADWAY DEPARTURES 2%

NON ROADWAY DEPARTURES 47%
1 ROR Fatality Every 29 minutes

50 people will die in a roadway departure crash in the United States today.

How many related to drop-offs?
2006 AAA Drop-Off Study
(On rural paved roads with unpaved shoulders)

- Drop-off crashes were 17.7% of ROR crashes in Iowa
- Drop-off crashes were 24.5% of ROR crashes in Missouri
- Drop-off crashes in Iowa were four times as likely to be fatal as all rural crashes and twice as likely to be fatal as other rural ROR crashes
- Drop-off crashes in Missouri were twice as likely to be fatal as all rural crashes on similar roads
Are Drop-Offs a Problem?
Typical Drop-Off Crash with Tire Scrubbing
Driver crosses over into oncoming traffic

Driver
Overcompensates
Steering

Right tires leave edge of pavement
Without a Safety Edge
With Safety Edge
The Safety Edge:
The Practical Solution
Approach to Reducing Roadway Departure Crashes

- Low-Cost Solutions
- Highly-Effective Countermeasures
- Systematic Application

Safety Edge Installation: Georgia
Edge Durability

Condition After 6 Years of Service

Without Safety Edge

With Safety Edge

Safety Edge Installation: Georgia
Key Message

☑ Saves Lives
☑ Low Cost
☑ Improves Durability
Afternoon Session(s)

• Construction Details
• Hardware
• Safety Details
• Demonstration Projects
• Open Discussion
• Implementation Strategies

Safety Edge Installation: Alabama
Every Day Counts
Innovation Initiative

Contact Information
For training or more information on this Every Day Counts Initiative, please contact your local FHWA Division Office.

To learn more about EDC, visit:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts