

Potential Risk Factors

The systemic approach focuses on risk rather than exact locations.

Once states identify a risk factor that involves a number of crashes, they can be proactive and fix the problem wherever that risk feature exists. Following is a list of potential risk factors where states may want to examine their crash database to determine whether there is a problem.

Roadway and Intersection Features

- Number of lanes
- Lane width
- Shoulder surface width/type
- Median width/type
- Horizontal curvature, delineation, or advance warning
- Horizontal curve and tangent speed differential
- Roadside or edge hazard rating (potentially including sideslope design)
- Driveway density
- Presence of shoulder or centerline rumble strips
- Presence of lighting
- Presence of on-street parking
- Intersection skew angle
- Intersection traffic control device
- Number of signal heads versus number of lanes
- Presence of backplates
- Presence of advanced warning signs
- Intersection located in/near horizontal curve
- Presence of left-turn or right-turn lanes
- Left-turn phasing
- Allowance of right-turn-on-red
- Overhead versus pedestal mounted signal heads
- Pedestrian crosswalk presence, crossing distance, signal head type



Traffic Volume

- Average daily traffic volumes
- Average daily entering vehicles

Other Features

- Posted speed limit or operating speed
- Presence of nearby railroad crossing
- Presence of automated enforcement
- Adjacent land use type, such as schools, commercial, or alcohol-sales establishments
- Location and presence of bus stops

