

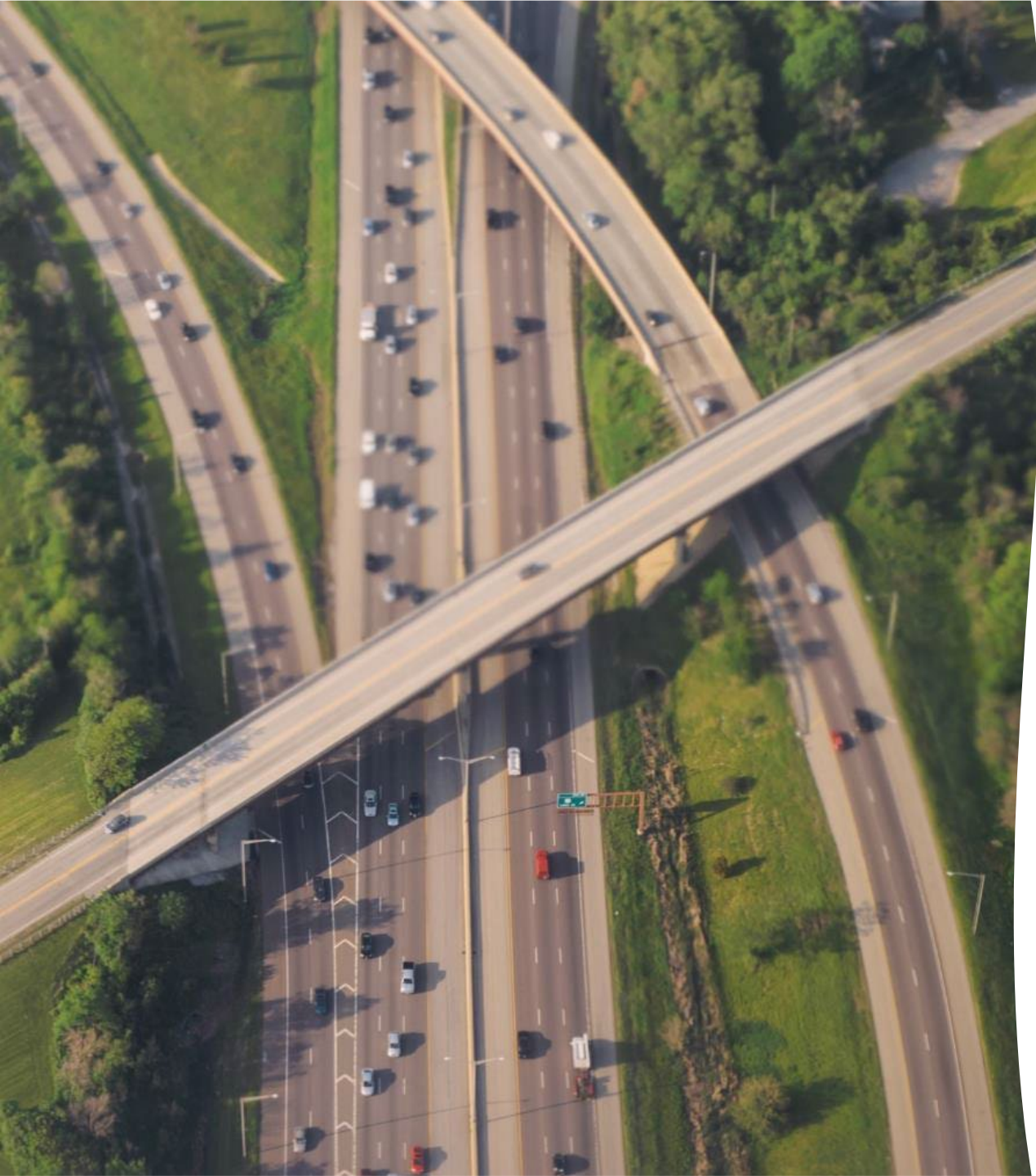


NHTSA

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

National Roadway Safety Strategy and the Safe System Approach

2022 Virginia's Distracted Driving Summit



Objectives

The participant will be able to:

- Define the goals of the National Roadway Safety Strategy.
- Explain the principles and elements of the Safe System Approach.

Our Current Reality

Traffic fatalities are a public health crisis affecting all road users.

1.35M

Lives lost globally each year from traffic crashes

Source: CDC

38,824

Lives lost on US roads in 2020

Source: NHTSA

6,516

Pedestrians killed in US traffic crashes in 2020

Source: NHTSA

Our Current Reality

Traffic fatalities reach a 16-year high in 2021

16,665

Fatalities occurring in rural areas during 2020

Source: NHTSA

11,258

Lives lost on US roads due to speed in 2020

Source: NHTSA

42,915

Lives lost from traffic crashes in 2021

Source: NHTSA

Zero: The Only Acceptable Number of Deaths

- No one will reach this goal acting alone.
- U.S. DOT will require everyone's help.
- Will require a cultural shift that treats all roadway deaths as unacceptable and preventable.
- All road users are treated the same and in an equitable manner.

National Roadway Safety Strategy

Collaborative effort between:

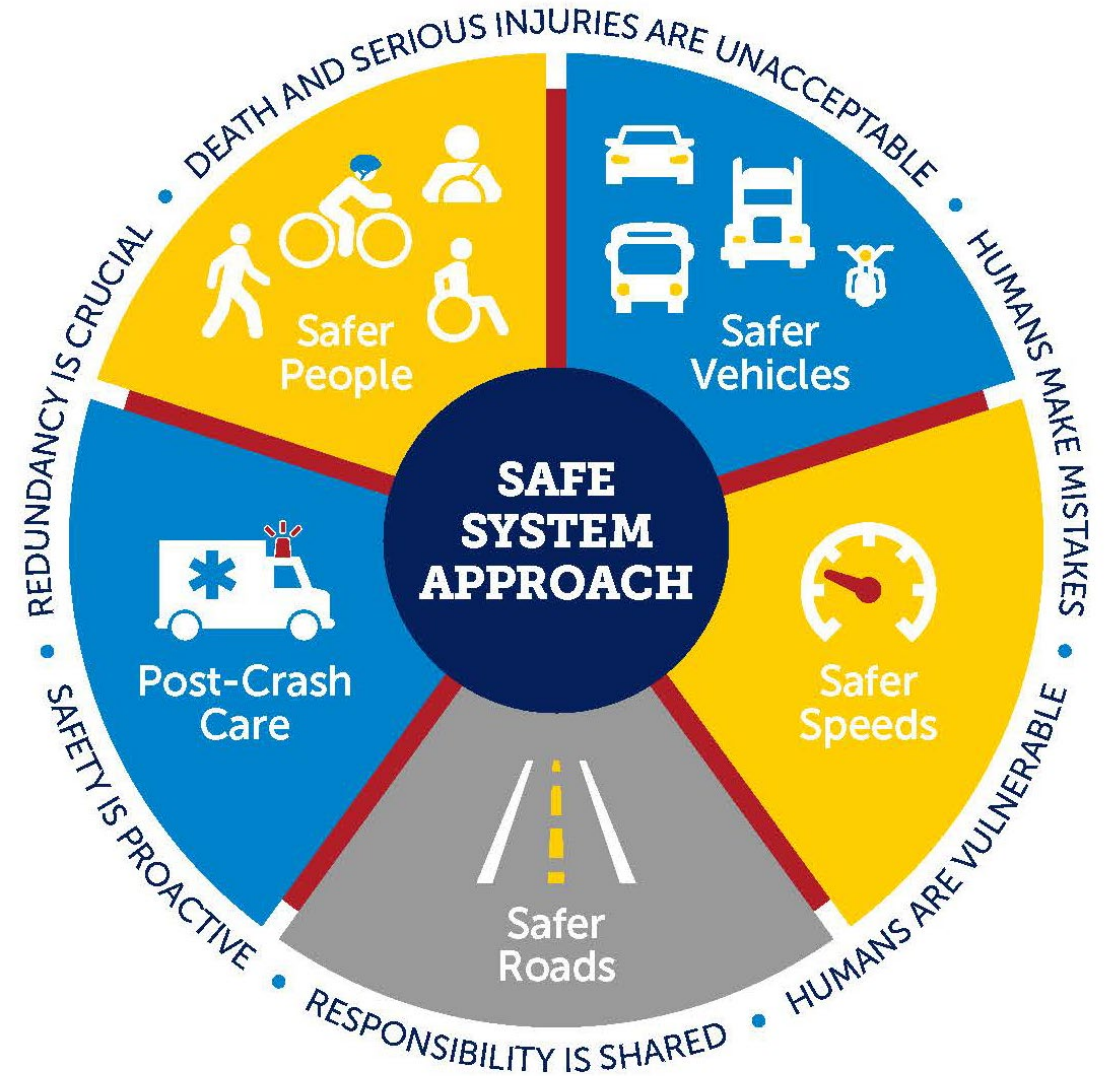
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)



Background of a Safe System Approach

SSA Principles

- Death/serious injury is unacceptable
- Humans make mistakes
- Humans are vulnerable
- Responsibility is shared
- Safety is proactive
- Redundancy is critical



Background of a Safe System Approach

SSA Elements

- Safer road users
- Safer vehicles
- Safer speeds
- Safer roads
- Post-crash care





Safer Vehicles



Safer Speeds

11,258

**PEOPLE KILLED IN
SPEEDING-RELATED
CRASHES IN 2020**

17 %

**INCREASE IN
SPEEDING-RELATED
FATALITIES FROM
2019-2020**

29 %

**OF TRAFFIC
FATALITIES**



Safer Streets –

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants

Key program that supports the National Roadway Safety Strategy

Funding supports local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as “Vision Zero” or “Toward Zero Deaths” Initiatives.

\$1 billion in annual funding, FY22-26

SS4A Program

- The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Grants are available to:
- Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan);
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan; or
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan



Post Crash Care



Access to emergency and trauma care is critical to the survivability of crashes.³⁵



Sources: (1) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury. (2) Early estimate, NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). (3) NHTSA National Automotive Sampling System-Crashworthiness Data System (NASS-CDS). It is not known the percentage who were later transferred to a level I or II trauma center. (4) Mackenzie et al, 2006. This study compared level I trauma centers to non-trauma centers.

[National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients](#)

[Training materials for teaching field triage to new and practicing EMS professionals](#)

Safer People

How do we do this in our highway safety world?

- *Connect with people*
- *Reward people for doing the right thing*
- *Do what works*
- *Do what makes sense*
- *Enlist new partners*
- *Create a traffic safety culture*
- *Remember highway safety is for all!*



THE SAFE SYSTEM JOURNEY

Traditional Approach

Prevent crashes →

Improve human behavior →

Control speeding →

Individuals are responsible →

React based on crash history →

Safe System Approach

Prevent death and serious injuries

Design for human mistakes/limitations

Reduce system kinetic energy &
addressing human behaviors

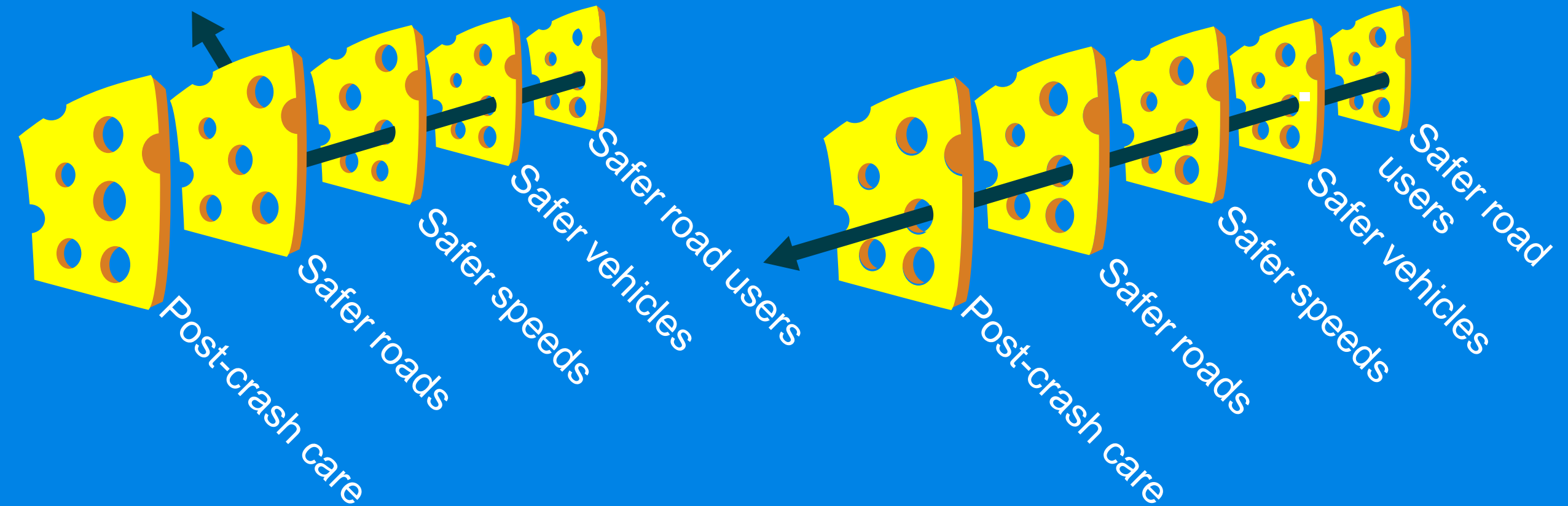
Share responsibility

Proactively identify and address
risks

The Swiss Cheese Model to Safe System Approach

The “Swiss Cheese Model” of redundancy creates layers of protection

Death and serious injuries only happen when all layers fail





Commitment to a Safe System Approach

- **Convening Partners**

- Leverage and adapt proven initiatives to address prevalent risky behaviors and potential protective factors
- Consider ALL possible traditional & non-traditional partnerships

- **Paradigm Shift**

- Think strategically
- Think globally
- Think differently

Call to Action

- Continue to do what works
- Celebrate successes
- Embrace the Safe System Approach
- Expand your network
- Help create a safety culture
- Identify your role and play it!



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<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>