Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.

November 3, 2022
Secretary Buttigieg releases national plan

“Zero is the only acceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on our roadways.”

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

WASHINGTON, DC – November 8, 2021: Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg speaks during a briefing at the White House in November. (Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post)
National Roadway Safety Strategy

• Addressing roadway safety requires a holistic, comprehensive approach
• Objectives correspond to the Safe System Approach elements:
  
  Safer People
  Safer Roads
  Safer Vehicles
  Safer Speeds
  Post-Crash Care
A New Direction

The Safe System Approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by:

- Accommodating human mistakes
- Keeping impacts on the human body at tolerable levels
## Paradigm Shift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional approach</th>
<th>Safe System Approach</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevent crashes</td>
<td>Prevent death and serious injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve human behavior</td>
<td>Design for human mistakes/limitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control speeding</td>
<td>Reduce system kinetic energy &amp; addressing human behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals are responsible</td>
<td>Share responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>React based on crash history</td>
<td>Proactively identify and address risks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 6 Safe System Principles

- **Death/serious injury is unacceptable**
- **Humans make mistakes**
- **Humans are vulnerable**
- **Responsibility is shared**
- **Safety is proactive**
- **Redundancy is crucial**
SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

- Death and serious injuries are unacceptable
- Humans make mistakes
- Safety is proactive
- Responsibility is shared
- Safer roads
- Safer speeds
- Safer vehicles
- Safer people
- Redundancy is crucial
The 5 Safe System Elements Create Redundancy

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

Death and serious injuries only happen when all layers fail.

Post-crash care

Safer roads

Safer speeds

Safer vehicles

Safer people

Safer

Safer

Safer

Safer

Post-crash care

Safer roads

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Safer people

Source: FHWA