Safety Data Tools for State DOTs

FHWA 2nd State Roadway Safety Data Capabilities Assessment

The State Roadway Safety Data Capabilities Assessment is part of FHWA's Roadway Safety Program - RDSP (https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsdp/toolbox-home.aspx. The results of the 1st assessment are summarized in the 2012 *United States Roadway Safety Data Capabilities Assessment* (https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsdp/downloads/rsdp_usrsdca_final.pdf). The objective of the second effort is to conduct an assessment in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia with updated materials and process. The target audience within state DOTs are the safety staff, data managers and governance groups, the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC), and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHRP) leadership. The goal of the assessment is to evaluate each states' ability to execute data driven safety analysis and performance management. The assessment will help track the progress of each state's ability to collect, analyze, and manage roadway safety data in five key areas:
- Road inventory and standards
- Data analysis tools and uses
- Data management and governance
- Data integration, interoperability, and expandability
- Performance management

The assessment outcomes include identifying safety data opportunities so resources can be steered towards the greatest needs; providing tools, action planning guidance, and technical assistance to assist States in developing action plans aimed at overcoming gaps; and integrating States data improvement activities into their overall safety plans.

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NHTSA Traffic Records 101

NHTSA developed the Traffic Records Assessment Advisory (https://www.nhtsa.gov/research-data/traffic-records) as a way for States to evaluate the sufficiency of their traffic records systems in supporting highway traffic safety decisions affecting behavioral and engineering programs. From this evolving assessment came the "six pack" of data quality attributes: timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration, and accessibility. The NHTSA and partners developed a set of resources including guidance on data system content, management, and strategic planning; training and outreach; noteworthy practices and case studies; and technical assistance programs aimed at helping States improve data quality and make the best possible use of the limited resources available for data collection and improvement.

While there has been a concerted effort to make sure the various resources are consistent and coordinated, there is no single place where safety practitioners can go to find all the information relevant to improving and using their traffic records system. To address these needs, NHTSA is developing a website that meets users' needs for information about traffic records systems, maintenance, improvement, and use. To take advantage of existing branding, the online training will be called "Traffic Records 101" (TR101). This project will result in materials for the TR101 website based on existing sources and new material vetted by a group of subject matter experts (SMEs). Look for more in late 2018 or early 2019.

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