



Safe Mobility for Older Drivers Forum

June 19-20, 2002

Ames, Iowa

**Presented by
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***Chief Highway Safety Engineer
Federal Highway Administration***



Why?



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

A View of the Road Ahead



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FHWA Overview

Vision

- Improving transportation for a strong America

Mission

- Enhancing mobility through innovation, leadership and public service

Roles

- Program delivery
- Technical assistance
- Technology deployment
- National policy leadership

Vital Few

- Safety
- Environmental stewardship and streamlining
- Congestion mitigation



Highway Safety in the U.S.

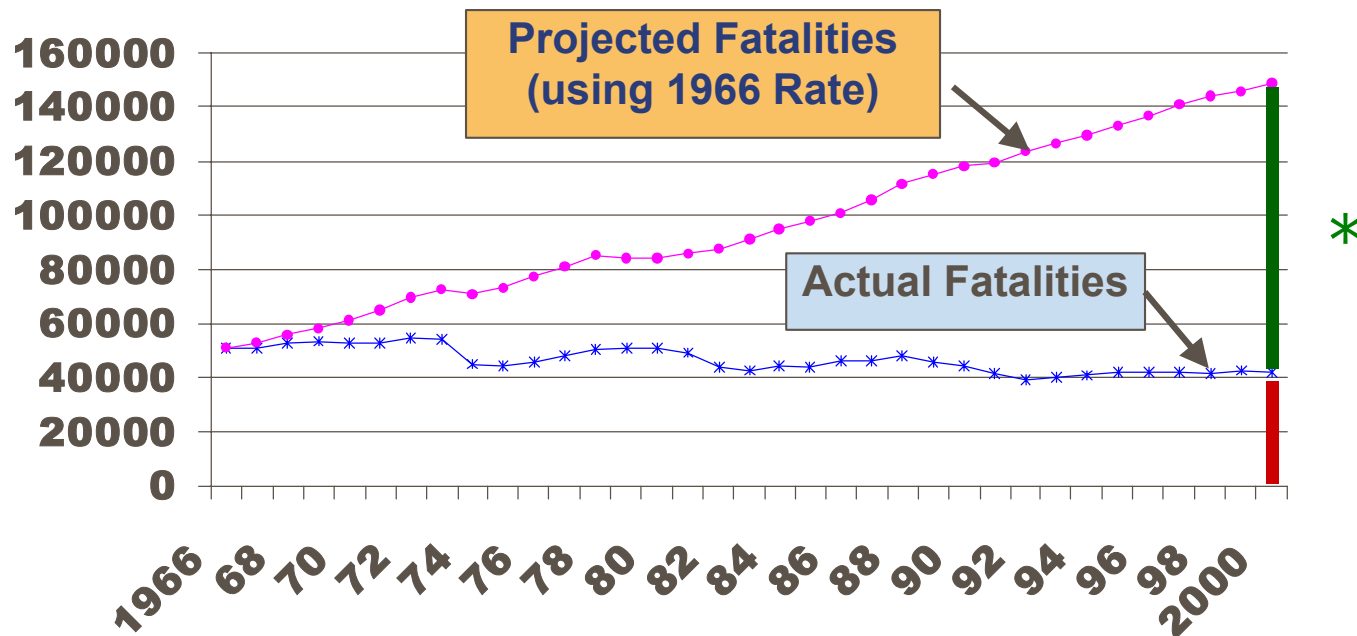
- **US Highway System Among World's Safest**
 - **Fatality Rate Decreasing** (as Traffic increasing)
 - But over [41,000 Deaths](#) & [3,200,000 Injuries](#) per Year
- **US DOT Safety Goals**
 - 20% reduction in Highway deaths and injuries by 2008
 - 50% reduction in large-vehicle related deaths and injuries
- **FHWA Safety Program**
 - Analyzes where fatalities and injuries occur
 - Looks for major contributing factors
 - Provides funding and program assistance for safety needs



Estimated Lives Saved in 2000

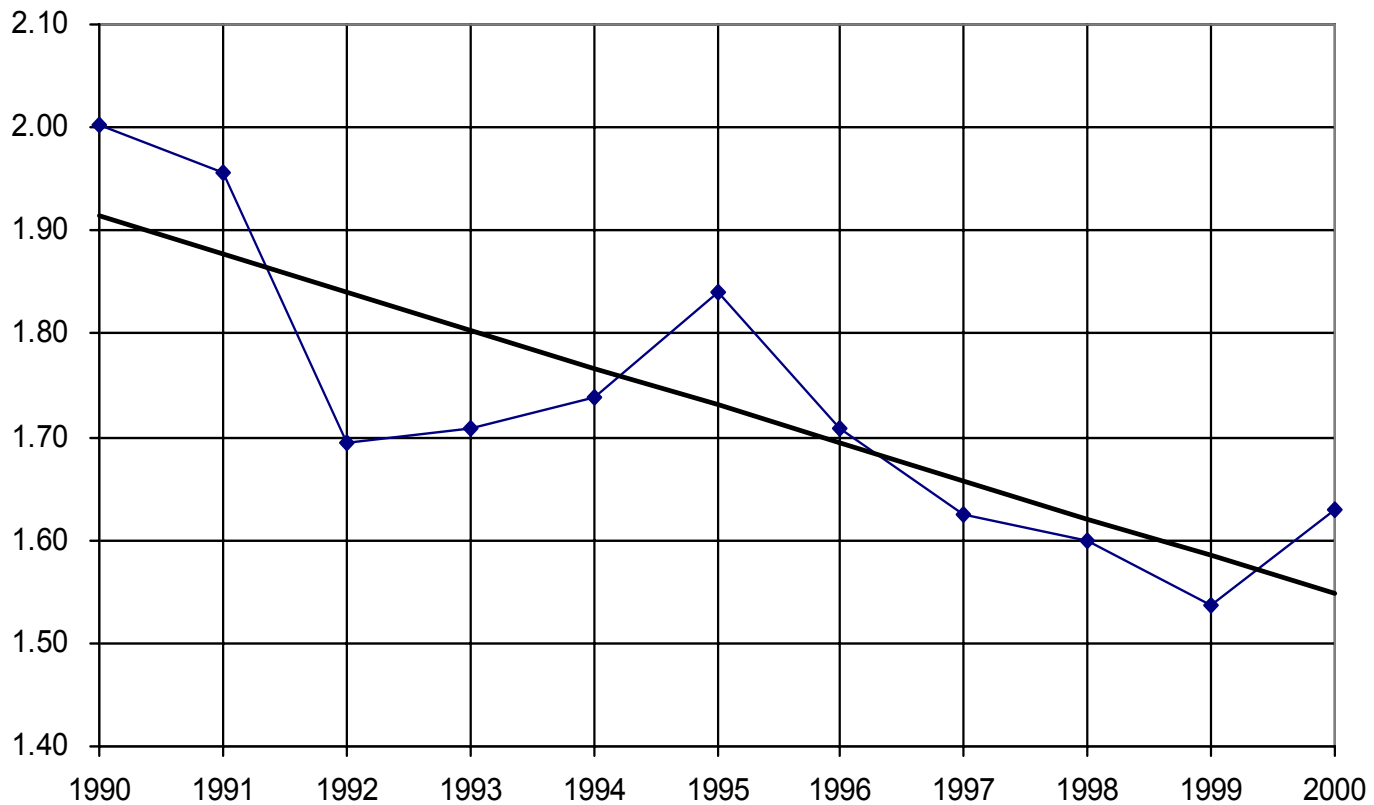
(Using 1966 Fatality Rate & 2000 Traffic Volumes)

*** Avoided 109,405 Additional Deaths (70% less)**



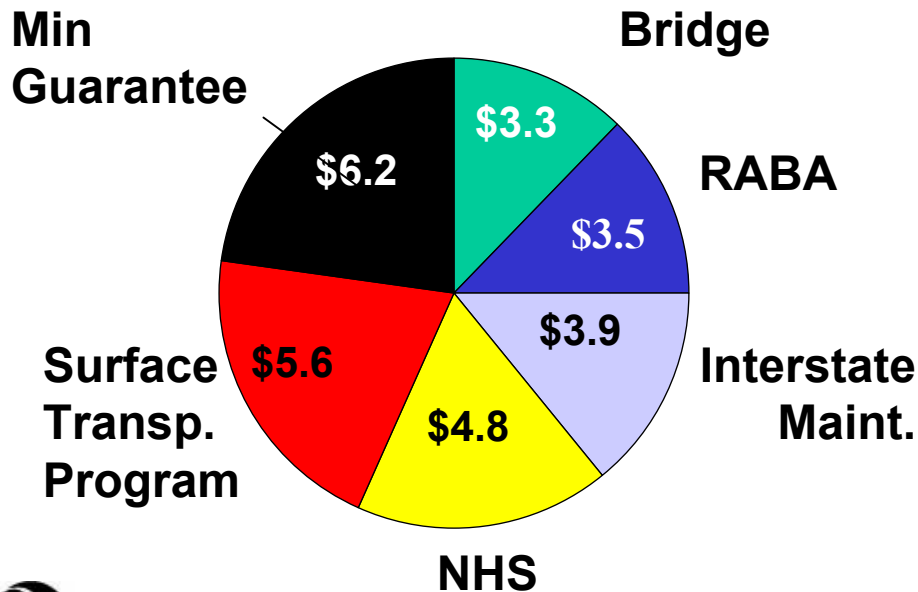
Iowa Statistics

Iowa Fatalities per 100 Million VMT

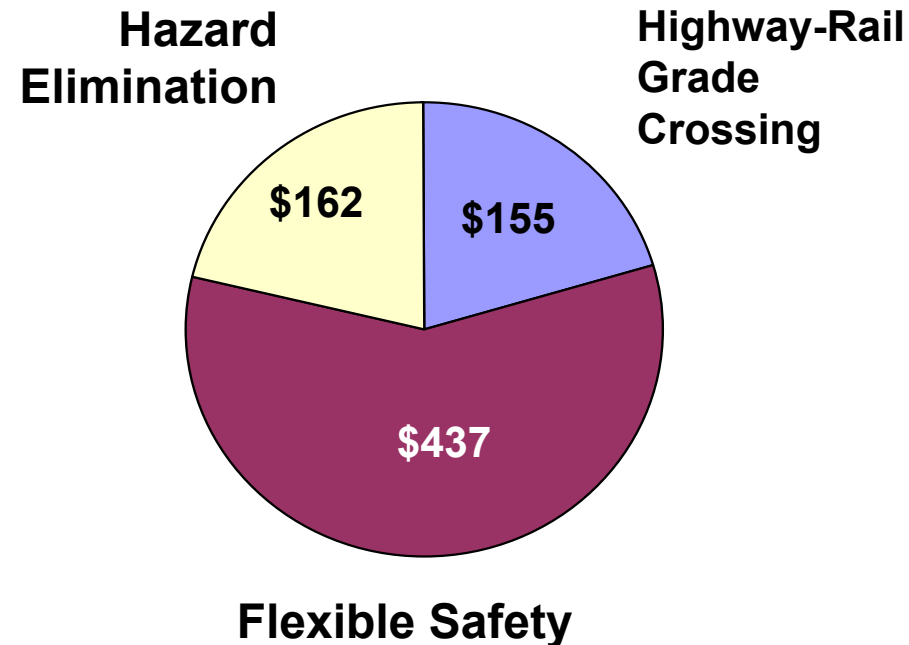


FY 02 Funding Resources for Highway Safety

Major Federal-Aid Program Categories (\$BILLIONS)



Safety Set-Aside Program (\$ millions)



Funding Sources for FHWA Safety Programs

Safety Programs--FHWA

(\$ in Millions)

FY 1998 FY 1999 FY 2000 FY 2001 FY 2002

Safety Set aside Programs

(10% of the Surface Transportation Program)

Hazard Elimination Program	\$161.9	\$162.1	\$162.2	\$162.2	\$162.2
Highway-Rail Grade Crossings Program	154.4	154.8	154.9	154.9	154.9
Optional Safety	<u>205.1</u>	<u>314.8</u>	<u>368.2</u>	<u>414.2</u>	<u>436.6</u>
Total Safety Setaside	\$521.4	\$631.7	\$685.3	\$731.3	\$753.7

Research and Technology

(Surface Transportation Research) \$ 12.4 \$ 14.6 \$ 15.4 \$ 17.9 \$17.2



Safety Set Aside Programs – Eligible Activities

Hazard Elimination Program (Section 152)

Funds may be used for safety improvements on any public road, public surface transportation facility or publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail, including:

- Intersection improvements
- Pavement and shoulder widening
- Guardrail and barrier improvements
- Installation of crash cushions
- Changes in roadway alignment
- Signing, pavement marking and delineation
- Breakaway utility poles and sign supports
- Skid-resistance
- Rumble strips
- Data collection and analysis
- Project planning and evaluation
- Traffic Calming



Safety Set Aside Programs – Eligible Activities

Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Safety (Section 130)

All public crossing safety improvements are eligible including:

- Signing and pavement markings
- Active warning devices (flashing lights and gates, track circuit improvements and interconnections with highway traffic signals)
- Surface improvements
- Grade separations (new and reconstruction)
- Sight distance improvements
- Geometric improvements to roadway approaches
- Closing/consolidating crossings



FHWA Focus Areas

Major Contributing Factors to Fatalities

- Single vehicle run-off-road **38%**
- Speeding related **30%**
- Intersections **21%**
- Pedestrian and Bicyclist **13%**

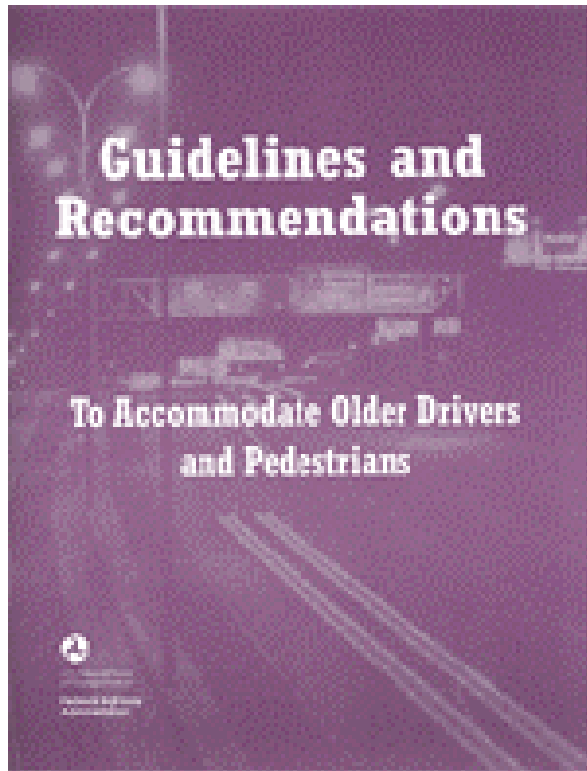


Key Issues

- Fatality and Injury Numbers on a “Plateau:” What new opportunities are out there to restore progress?
- Data: Quality, timeliness and value to countermeasure development and safety conscious planning.
- Needs of Localities: Significant part of problem is on local roads.
- Growing Older Population: Safety impacts, particularly at complex intersections and interchanges.



A Valuable Resource



... provides practitioners with a condensed source of practical information that links older road user characteristics to highway design, operational, and traffic engineering recommendations by addressing specific roadway features. These Guidelines and Recommendations supplement existing standards and guidelines in the areas of highway geometry, operations, and traffic control devices.

Publication No. FHWA-RD-01-051
<http://www.tfhrc.gov/humanfac/>

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What's Next?



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Hope and Success!

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