

BENEFITS

- Helps produce designs that reduce the number and severity of crashes
- May reduce costs by identifying safety issues and correcting them before projects are built
- Promotes awareness of safe design practices
- Integrates multimodal safety concerns
- Considers human factors in all facets of design

Q: "Why should we conduct Road Safety Audits?...We already do safety reviews."

A: "RSAs are different from existing safety reviews in most States because RSAs are proactive, consider all road users and all factors that may contribute to a crash, include day and night field reviews, and are conducted by a multidisciplinary and independent team."



"We view RSAs as a proactive low-cost approach to improve safety. The RSAs helped our engineering team develop a number of solutions incorporating measures that were not originally included in the projects. The very first audit conducted saved SCDOT thousands of dollars by correcting a design problem."

*Terecia Wilson,
Director of Safety
South Carolina Department of Transportation*

RESOURCES

Comprehensive Website

www.roadwaysafetyaudits.org

"We have implemented RSAs on proposed resurfacing projects. Previously, very few safety improvements were incorporated into our resurfacing projects. We now see our staff consistently looking for and implementing numerous low cost safety improvements on Iowa's roads."

*Thomas M. Welch, P.E.
State Transportation Safety Engineer
Iowa Dept. of Transportation*

Road Safety Audit Training

NATIONAL HIGHWAY INSTITUTE

Course: 380069A
Title: Road Safety Audits and Road Safety Audit Reviews

www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov
703-235-0528

For more information, please contact
FHWA's Office of Safety Design at
202-366-1795



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FHWA-SA-04-004

Road Safety Audits

*"Saving Lives,
Saving Money"*



"The Road Safety Audit process is valuable from a perspective of identifying deficiencies, developing mitigative strategies, improving public relations and enhancing our agency's credibility."

*Bernie Arseneau
Director, Office of Traffic, Security and Operations
Minnesota Department of Transportation*

DEFINITION

Road Safety Audit (RSA)

A road safety audit is a formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection by an independent audit team.

Typical Improvements

Road Safety Audits can be used in any phase of project development from planning to construction. RSAs can also be used on any size project from minor maintenance to mega-projects. Typical improvements suggested include:

- Removal of sight distance obstructions
- Addition/design changes to turn lanes
- Improvement to acceleration/deceleration lane design
- Illumination
- Median barrier placement
- Consideration of pedestrian's ability to cross a street
- Improvements to superelevation
- Drainage improvements
- Roadway shoulder and lane width modifications
- Access management/consolidation of driveways
- Realignment of intersection approaches

STEPS to CONDUCT RSAs



Keys to SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

From agency experience, the keys to success are:

- Agency support and willingness to incorporate audit findings
- Small multidisciplinary audit team consisting of 3 to 5 people (may include highway/traffic safety, traffic engineering, planning, geometric design, construction, maintenance, human factors, and enforcement)
- Conduct the audit at the earliest possible stage
- Willingness to investigate new ideas outside the traditional scope of work

Before RSA



After RSA

