NHTSA GO TEAMS: TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NHTSA's Traffic Records GO Team program helps States improve their traffic records systems by deploying teams of subject matter experts to deliver tailored technical assistance and training based on States' actual needs. Each GO Team will consist of up to three subject matter experts who will work a maximum combined total of 120 hours. This program is designed to provide additional resources and assistance for State traffic records professionals as they work to improve their traffic records data collection, management, and analysis capabilities.

A State may request specific technical assistance that focuses on a targeted problem in the traffic records systems, or provides technical training to State traffic records program managers in an area identified by the State. Key assistance topics should address an issue identified in the State's traffic records strategic plan or identified during the State's most recent traffic records assessment. The GO Team initiative will also be used to deliver existing outreach programs including the Crash Data Improvement Program (CDIP).

States are encouraged to submit GO Team requests that address a specific traffic records improvement need, either highlighted during a State's traffic records assessment or identified by the State's Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) and Highway Safety Office. For a sampling of potential GO Team projects and how to apply, see below. For further information, please contact your NHTSA Regional Program Manager (RPM).

Sample GO Team Projects
GO Teams must have a clearly delineated scope appropriate to the GO Team program—a smaller scale, short-to-medium term need.

Data Integration
• Evaluate available databases and facilitate discussions between data custodians to allow sharing and integration between agencies, and suggest how integrated data could be used to identify problems and recommend and evaluate countermeasures.

Injury Surveillance
• Facilitate discussions with data managers and help explain the importance of linking injury data with crash data, how data will be used, and address confidentiality concerns in order to move towards a data-sharing agreement or MOU.

Driver/Vehicle
• Help a State improve data quality by improving integration between various databases and creating, for example, an error/edit output for transfer failures and a tracking process to ensure that found errors are corrected.

Crash
• Train State crash data collectors, processors, administrators, and users on the importance of quality crash data and how this helps to improve safety decisions.

Citation and Adjudication
• Help develop a "law table" to interpret the local charges and help States to harmonize local and state statute citations so that more accurate data can be collected.

Roadway
• Help a State develop an effective data governance plan for roadway data by identifying and maintaining critical data elements to support linkage/ integration within the DOT and with other traffic records datasets.

TRCC Management & Strategic Planning
• Assist a State TRCC with strategic planning. Train the TRCC on how to use appropriate decision-making models to help prioritize grant requests.

REQUESTING A NHTSA GO TEAM

A State interested in requesting a GO Team will complete the brief application (currently on paper, coming soon to TRIPRS) for technical assistance or training and submit it to NHTSA via the appropriate Regional Office. Applications should be submitted by a State-designated representative, approved by both the State's Highway Safety Office (HSO) and TRCC. States should contact their RPM for assistance in applying. The application request should include the following information:

• A detailed description of the technical problem that the GO Team will need to address;
• A description of the specific technical assistance being requested from the GO Team;
• A description of the current and past efforts to address this problem;
• An explanation of how the GO Team assistance fits into the TRCC's Strategic Plan;
• The anticipated improvements that the GO Teams are likely to provide to the State's traffic records data systems; and
• The contact information of the State officials who will be tasked to work with the GO Team to address this problem.

The RPM will review the application to ensure that (a) the State has described their technical problem in sufficient detail so that NHTSA can identify the most appropriate technical assistance, and (b) requested assistance that is within the scope of NHTSA's traffic records purview.

The NHTSA Traffic Records (TR) Team will review the request and identify up to three subject matter experts as the GO Team to address the State's problem. The NHTSA TR Team will then host a conference call with the State applicant, the GO Team members, and the RPM to discuss the State's request. Following this initial conference call, the GO Team will contact the designated representative to gather more information to diagnose the State's problem and recommend a course of action. Approximately one week after the initial conference call, NHTSA's TR Team will host a second teleconference where the GO Team will present their work plan, proposed schedule of activities, milestones, and deliverables to the State representatives, NHTSA's TR Team and RPM.

Technical Assistance

The GO Team will travel to the State to adequately diagnose the State's problem and provide appropriate technical assistance as needed. The GO Team leader will draft a final technical report that diagnoses the problem with the State's traffic records system and recommends a course of action for the State to undertake to resolve this problem. The GO Team will submit this report to NHTSA, who will host a closeout brief on the GO Team's findings via webinar.

Training

The GO Team will work with the appropriate State traffic records professionals to design a curriculum to meet their training needs. The training should be no longer than 3 days and is not meant to supplant courses offered through the Transportation Safety Institute. GO Teams travel to the State to provide instruction only as needed. Whenever appropriate, the GO Team will attempt to deliver this training via webinar.