

# The Draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan:

## *A Summary of Findings and Recommendations*

### // PLAN BACKGROUND

In 2023, Rapid City was awarded \$160,000 to develop a Safety Action Plan as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.

This funding provides our community the opportunity to develop a plan that expands upon existing transportation goals and objectives to create a safer community with zero roadway deaths.

### // THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

The aim for zero roadway deaths is guided by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Safety System Approach (SSA), which takes a holistic approach to safety by sharing responsibility amongst all individuals involved in the use, planning, design, or construction of a transportation network.

The SSA is a shift from what many consider to be conventional road safety thinking because it focuses on both human mistakes and human vulnerability by designing systems with built-in layers of protection. The idea is that if one layer of safety fails, another may help prevent a crash or lessen the likelihood of serious injury or death in the event that one takes place.

### // WHAT IS SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL?

The SS4A grant program is a competitive grant program that helps to fund regional and local safety projects that aim to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries, with an overall goal of zero roadway deaths.



Source: FHWA

### // WHY DO WE NEED A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN?

In order to be eligible for additional SS4A funding to complete projects, the City of Rapid City completed a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) to outline the region's safety goals and create an actionable framework for identifying safety issues and appropriate strategies to move towards zero roadway deaths. The USDOT requires the following components as part of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan:



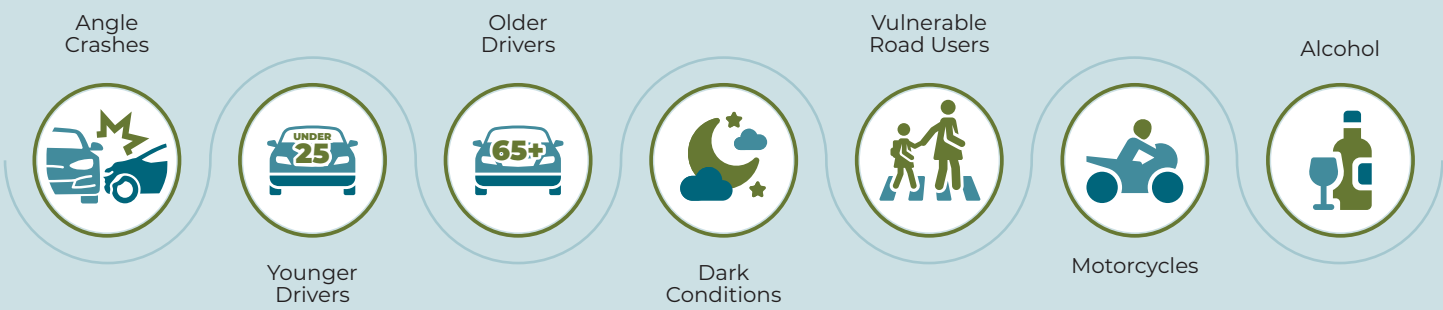
Source: FHWA

The **purpose** of the safety analysis portion of development of the CSAP is to address the fact that:

**70%** of fatal or serious injury crashes occur on  
**11%** of Rapid City's road network.

The CSAP utilizes this data, along with future forecasted conditions, to develop a plan that analyzes Rapid City's entire transportation system to identify high priority safety locations and primary contributing factors to fatal or serious injury crashes and provide recommendations to implement safety strategies to address them according to the Safe Systems Approach.

CSAP Focus Areas:



The groups involved in carrying out the recommendations in the CSAP include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Mayor's Office                 |  Fire Department                           |
|  City Council                   |  Parks & Recreation Department             |
|  Community Development Division |  South Dakota Department of Transportation |
|  Public Works Department        |  Federal Highway Administration            |
|  Police Department              |  Federal Transit Administration            |

// RAPID CITY LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT



From the years 2019 to 2023, the City of Rapid City experienced **31 fatalities** and **203 serious injuries** due to traffic crashes.



The City of Rapid City is establishing a goal to **reach zero fatalities and serious injuries** on city streets **by 2050**.



Achieving this goal will take time, but it's **only possible** if we all fully **embrace the Safe System Approach** and commit to making it happen **together**.

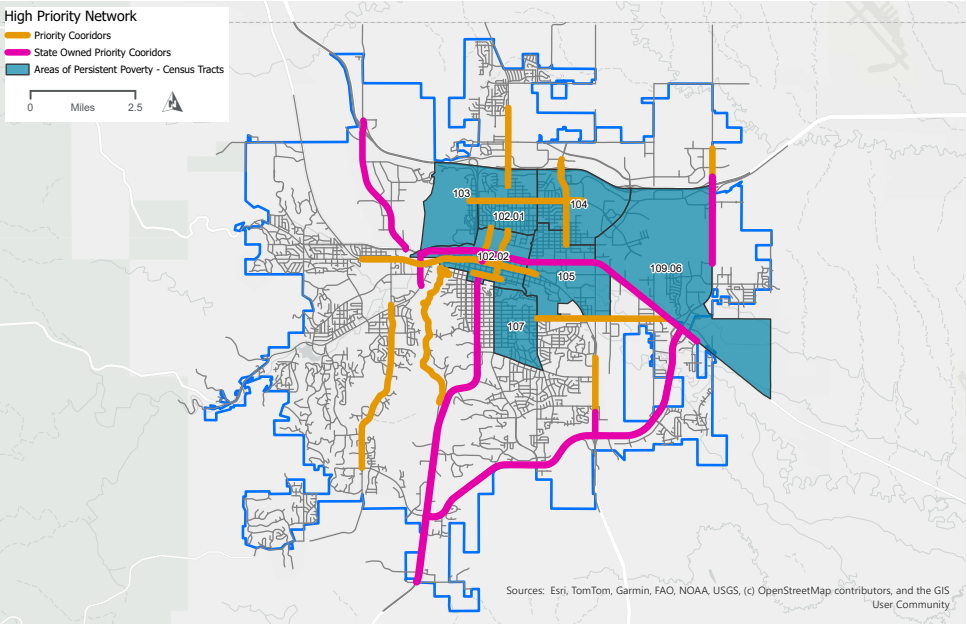
// PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public involvement is a critical part of the transportation planning process. The public involvement strategy for this plan includes outreach to the general public and key stakeholders.

Past in-person events have included both pop-up events and focus group sessions. Digital engagement was collected in the form of a project survey, comment map, and comment form all offered on the project website.





// POVERTY AS A FACTOR IN SAFETY OUTCOMES

Crash data was overlaid with demographic and socioeconomic indicators to identify disparities in safety outcomes. Areas with higher concentrations of low-income households, renters, and communities of color often coincide with higher crash rates and gaps in safety infrastructure.



// IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSAP

The following list outlines next steps and recommended safety practices for Rapid City as presented in the CSAP:

-  Adopt safety resolutions
-  Revise design manuals and practices
-  Conduct road safety audits
-  Train staff and partners

// PROJECTS AND STRATEGIES

The Rapid City CSAP philosophy for safety projects and strategies can be summarized by the three tiers graphic. In short, **policy strategies** are the foundation for **systemic projects** (which creates a proactive safety approach), and the top tier identifies the limited but critical **major safety infrastructure projects**.



Pop-Up at the 2024 Rapid City Bike Fest



Pop-up at the 2024 Trunk or Treat Event



Focus Group Session #1: Young Drivers in 2025

## // THE SAFER STREETS TOOLKIT COUNTERMEASURES

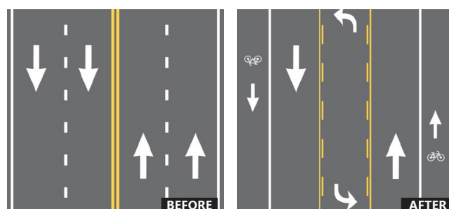
### Vertical and Horizontal Traffic Calming

(e.g. speed bumps, bump outs, etc.)



### Roadway reconfigurations

(e.g., 4-to-3 lane conversions)



### Protected or Buffered Bike Lanes



Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

**Check out the full plan and appendices to view the safer streets toolkit.**

## // RECOMMENDED FISCALLY CONSTRAINED SAFETY PROJECTS ON THE HIGH PRIORITY NETWORK

PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	TIMEFRAME
STREET PROJECTS		
Safety Improvements	Main Street and Mountain View Road	2025-2030
Safety Improvements	Main Street and Mount Rushmore Road	2025-2030
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS		
Shared Use Path	Anamosa Street from Haines Avenue to Silver Street	2025-2030
Sidewalk	East Saint Patrick Street from East Saint Joseph Street to Cherry Avenue	2025-2030
Buffered Bike Lane	Mount Rushmore Road from North Street to Omaha Street	2041-2050

## // PROGRESS AND TRANSPARENCY

Annual progress reports will be made publicly available on the Rapid City website, summarizing key actions, performance metrics, project milestones, and funding updates.

For more information on the Rapid City Safe Streets & Roads for All project, visit the project website at: [www.rcsafeststreets.com](http://www.rcsafeststreets.com).

**SCAN  
HERE TO  
LEARN  
MORE:**



[www.rcsafeststreets.com](http://www.rcsafeststreets.com)

## // PROJECT CONTACT

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