

# Reduced Work Zone Fatalities in California



OUR PLAN FOR A SAFER CALIFORNIA

#### California's

## Strategic Highway Safety Plan

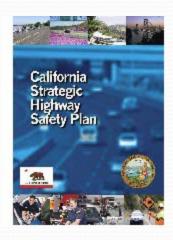
- Teams formed in November 2005.
  - More than 300 stakeholders.
- SHSP approved September 26, 2006. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/SHSP/SHSP-

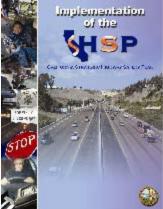
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#### Implementation Plan published April 4, 2008.

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/SHSP/ISHSP-Final-04212008.pdf

• 16 Challenge Areas, 152 Actions.





## The SHSP is Data Driven

- Work Zone Challenge Area goal: By 2010, reduce fatalities in California work zones by 10% from their 2004 level (109).
- Each action was to be attainable, measurable, and focused on a known problem area.



#### **Original Actions Are All Complete**

- 14.01 Joint work zone training for CHP and Caltrans.
- 14.02 Improve collection & analysis of work zone crash data.
- 14.03 Encourage use of dynamic merge systems to reduce end of queue collisions.
- 14.04 Permanently fund Slow for the Cone Zone campaign.

#### **Original Actions Are All Complete**

- 14.05 Encourage use of more and better mobile barriers and attenuators.
- 14.06 Increase work zone training for all workers.
- 14.07 Encourage use of full closures.
- 14.08 Develop lane closure data system.
- 14.09 Encourage use of Safety Edge.

#### **Original Actions Are All Complete**

- 14.10 Evaluate work zone language in driver handbook and recommend changes.
- 14.11 Change new product evaluation system to speed use of innovative products.
- 14.12 Develop typicals and guidance for bikes & peds in work zones.
- 14.13 Project specific websites.
- 14.14 Best practices for purchasing new technology.

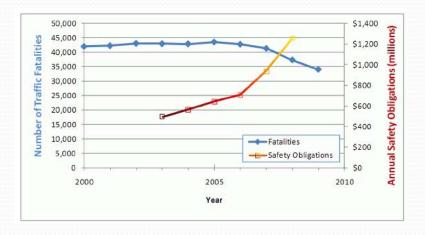
## Latest Data



- The total number of fatalities has fallen each and every year since 2007.
- New data suggests most crashes occur near activity area not the transition area.
- New data suggests most crashes are due to improper lane changes and following too close/ excessive speed.



- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - SAIC study examined the nationwide reduction in roadway fatalities.
  - Isolated trends due to seat belts, safer vehicles, etc.
  - Found that for every \$1 million obligated, societal costs of \$24 million were saved.



Importance of collaboration.

- 4 E's were essential.
- Participation by industry and community stakeholders.
- All contributed to a more effective plan, a more workable plan, and commitment across the board.



- Importance of Buy-In from Leadership
  - Each agency commits resources up front to see it is completed.
  - In some cases multiple agencies may contribute funding.
  - As problems are encountered leadership helps find ways around them.



- Some actions became possible that were not without the SHSP.
  - Multi-year funding for Slow for the Cone Zone.
- Interagency actions are more cooperative.
  - Training for law enforcement in work zones.









## What's Next?

- One new action approved: 14.15 Work Zone Tool Kit
- More in development:
  - Transverse rumble strips.
  - Continued and improved data collection.
  - Speed reduction techniques for maintenance.
- Detailed data will help us identify problems and better target our efforts and resources.



#### Contact



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