

AL SHSP Update/Lee Russell Coalition Talking Points

What is the purpose of the AL Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Update Project?

- The Alabama Department of Transportation is embarking on the task of updating its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The plan was last updated in 2012. The previous SHSP was prepared with input for dozens of stakeholders and analysis of statewide traffic safety trends, using a top down approach.
- The SHSP is a federally required plan outlining the strategic direction of the state, where traffic safety is concerned. A data-driven process is used to identify strategies to drive down fatalities and serious injuries.
- The department has decided to use a bottom up approach to update the SHSP. This approach involves developing regional safety action plans which identify the most pressing traffic safety challenges in each of the state's 12 regions. These regional safety action plans will be used to develop the updated 2017 SHSP.

Why convene regional coalitions?

- Each region has specific demographic and economic characteristics that critically influence traffic safety issues. Some regions have key economic activity centers and urban areas, while others are mostly rural. Stakeholders in each region will be most informed of the traffic safety needs of their region. Each regional safety action plan will be customized to address the challenges and concerns of the region's stakeholders and the issues identified by the crash data.

What is the coalition expected to accomplish?

- The coalition is expected to convene a group of diverse stakeholders and develop a data driven regional safety action plan. The plan will identify the region's most pressing areas of emphasis and outline strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in the region. The project consultant team will facilitate the meetings and write the action plan with consultation from the stakeholders.
- While developing a regional safety action plan is the immediate goal of the effort, convening a regional coalition will provide a conduit for implementation of the regional plan.

Who should participate?

- Engineers
- Local Public Works Directors
- Planners

- Safety Practitioners
- State and Local Police
- Emergency Responders
- Health Care Workers
- Educators
- Behavioral Scientists

Why should you participate?

- Safer roads and streets
- Increased public support for safety
- Access to data and expertise
- Potential funding eligibility
- Building community safety capacity
- Networking with other concerned individuals and organizations