

# Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan

## Highway Safety Improvement Program

### **What is the Highway Safety Improvement Program?**

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is an element of the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan. The HSIP funds infrastructure-related highway safety improvements. Some examples of the types of projects addressed with these funds are signing, striping, delineation, guardrail installation, slope flattening, intersection improvements, and roadway realignment.

### **Who manages the program?**

MDT's Safety Engineering Section reviews investigated accidents of record and sites submitted by local agencies in order to develop a priority list of locations that could participate in this program.

### **Where does the money come from?**

Ninety percent of the money for safety improvements at these locations comes from the federal government. Ten percent comes from the state or local governments.

### **What type of project is eligible?**

Any highway safety improvement project on any public road or publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail is eligible for HSIP funding. The proposed improvement must not be a maintenance function.

### **What is the goal of the Highway Safety Improvement Program?**

The purpose of the Highway Safety Improvement Program is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. Montana's overall goal for the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan is that all highway users arrive safely at their destination.

### **How are high-hazard locations identified?**

High-hazard locations are identified by accident trends based on the number of crashes, accident rates, severity of crashes, or a combination of these factors.

### **How many locations can local road agencies submit from each city or county?**

Applicants may submit up to five locations annually. These sites will be included in the overall statewide ranking and priority listing.

### **What information should a local road agency submit with the application?**

Local road agencies will need to include a safety priority list; provide an accident analysis and traffic information (if available); and identify proposed improvements, including any site constraints (right-of-way acquisition, utility relocations, etc.). (See the application on the back of this page.)

### **What is the review and approval process?**

After MDT receives the applications from local road agencies, the Safety Engineering Section develops an annual list of priorities according to a benefit/cost ratio analysis. MDT then develops a program for improvements subject to availability of funds and a benefit/cost ratio greater than 1.0. The Transportation Commission approves the list of safety improvement projects.

### **Where should local road agencies send the application?**

Safety Engineering Section  
Montana Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001  
(406)444-6256

### **What is the deadline for submitting applications?**

End of the calendar year for projects to be reviewed during the spring of the following year.

