

Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan

Highway Safety Improvement Program

What is the Highway Safety Improvement Program?

The Highway Safety Improvement Program is an element of the Montana Department of Transportation's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan that funds safety improvements at high-hazard accident locations. Some examples of the types of projects addressed with these funds are signing, striping, delineation, guardrail installation, slope flattening, and roadway realignment. If a project is located on a state Secondary Route or a local rural road, the project will be funded through "High Risk Rural Road" funds, part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Who manages the program?

MDT's Safety Management 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 (Highway Trust Fund). Ten percent comes from the state or local governments.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, a local road agency must regularly report accidents to the Montana Highway Patrol for recording in the Transportation Information System. The proposed improvement must not be a maintenance function.

What is the goal of the Highway Safety Improvement Program?

The goal of the Safety Management System and the Highway Safety Improvement Program is to reduce the number and severity of crashes on Montana roadways. Under the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan, more emphasis will be placed on crash severity.

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, accident analysis, traffic information, and proposed improvements. (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 Management Section develops a list of priorities according to a benefit/cost ratio analysis. Next, MDT develops a program for improvement subject to availability of funds and a benefit/cost ratio greater than 1.0. The Transportation Commission approves the list of safety improvement projects with the highest benefit/cost ratios.

Where should local road agencies send the application?

Safety Management Section
Montana Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
(406)444-6113

What is the deadline for submitting applications?

December 31, 2010

