

SAFETY IS KEY

the challenge of saving lives

Moderator: Marianne Trussell
Florida Department of Transportation

Panel:
Mike Hancock
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Thomas Smith
FHWA West Virginia Division

David O'Hagan
Florida Department of Transportation

David Nicol
Federal Highway Administration



The age old transportation question: How can we reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on our roadway? Our panelists discussed the implementation and best practices of Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

Safety on Florida's Highways: Marianne Trussell, Chief Safety Officer for the FDOT, discussed Florida's Strategic Highway Safety Plans as they relate to the four focus groups; lane departures, intersections, aggressive driving and vulnerable road users.

Kentucky's Strategic Highway Safety Plan: Mike Hancock, Chief of Staff for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, discussed the implementation of Strategic Highway Safety Plans in Kentucky, which is historically high in the number of highway fatalities. In 2008, Kentucky passed into law the Primary Safety Belt Law and the Graduated Driver's Licensing Program. To date, the number of highway fatalities in Kentucky is going down.

Best Practices to Accommodate Older Road Users: Thomas Smith, FHWA Division Administrator, West Virginia Division, discussed best practices for

implementing safety measures to protect older road users. The team, comprised of representatives from many states, visited Australia and Japan to study their safety practices as they related to older road users. To improve the safety for older road users is to improve the safety for all road users and vice versa.

Cable Barriers: David O'Hagan, State Roadway Design, FDOT, discussed the use of median cable barriers along Florida's state highways. Design specification is still being created for cable barrier; however, the cable barriers already installed and in use have helped to reduce the number of crossover accidents and fatalities.

Proven Crash Countermeasures: David Nicol, Director of Safety Design for the Federal Highway Administration, discussed effective design techniques and highway features for improving highway safety. The Federal Highway Administration recommends performing roadway audits to identify problem areas to use engineering techniques to correct problems.

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