Background

Iowa’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) 2019-2023 was developed to meet the significant challenge of reducing fatal and serious injury crashes on Iowa’s roadways. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), an SHSP “is a statewide coordinated safety plan that provides a comprehensive framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.” Iowa’s SHSP was developed in consultation with a multidiscipline team of representatives that prioritized eight safety emphasis areas. For each emphasis area, the team identified strategies that provide the greatest opportunity to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Iowa’s roadways.

Five E’s

Four primary categories of safety professionals drive the development of the strategies defined in Iowa’s SHSP. These professionals include those in education, emergency medical services, enforcement, and engineering. Each discipline has a unique perspective on how to improve traffic safety while also remaining connected to the other disciplines. Iowa’s SHSP also considers a fifth E of everyone because ultimately it is the responsibility of every driver on Iowa’s roadways to make safe choices and drive responsibly.

Enforcement is needed to remind people of the laws associated with the use of our transportation system. Even with driver education and carefully designed roadways, the role of enforcement remains vital in encouraging road users to adhere to the rules of the road. State, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies work alongside highway safety partner agencies to enforce traffic laws during regular patrols, as well as during specialized mobilization efforts. Below are the enforcement strategies that were identified in the SHSP.

Strategies

**Lane departures and roadside collisions**
- Evaluate high lane departure crash corridors for two-lane highways and deploy road safety audit (RSA) teams to evaluate.

**Speed-related**
- Identify corridors with a high frequency of speed-related crashes and implement high-visibility enforcement campaigns.

**Unprotected persons**
- Conduct highly publicized enforcement campaigns focused on restraint use.

**Intersections**
- Conduct enforcement campaigns related to bicycle and pedestrian awareness at targeted intersections.

**Impairment involved**
- Support trainings for 60 new drug recognition expert (DRE) officers and 500 new advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement (ARIDE) officers.

**Distracted or inattentive drivers**
- Support high-visibility enforcement campaigns for hands-free cell phone law.

Implementation and Evaluation

Implementation of the above strategies will ultimately support Iowa’s long-term vision of Zero Fatalities. The implementation and progress of these strategies will be evaluated on an annual basis over the five-year planning period starting January 2019 and ending December 2023.