Policy and Process Change Noteworthy Practice:

Align Policy Across Departments and Jurisdictions

Integrate policies and internal procedures at multiple levels to consistently apply safety in planning, design, and implementation.

Noteworthy Practices for Aligning and Integrating Safety Priorities include:

- Evaluate existing plans and policies to close gaps and reinforce shared safety goals
- Create a roadmap to prioritize and organize policy and process updates
- Revise standards and procedures so future project reviews reflect safety priorities
- Coordinate across departments and partners to apply safety consistently
- Align guidance from multiple levels of government to inform local policy

The following success stories highlight how SS4A grant recipients have applied these practices in their grants.

Translating Safety into Local Engineering Standards

Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office
Colorado, Rural, FY22
View Mesa County's Action Plan to learn more

Mesa County established a robust, systemic approach to safety by **translating national and state guidance into cohesive local practice**. This process involved embedding solutions for 15 multidisciplinary agencies to reinforce shared safety goals. Mesa County:

- Reviewed and aligned 12 local and regional plans with state and Federal safety guidance to ensure consistency and shared direction.
- Secured formal commitment to new strategies, with five local government agencies passing resolutions to support, commitment, and adoption of the plan.
- Created a regional crash dashboard supporting local, county, and state agencies in accessing and evaluating crash information consistency, while evaluating rural and urban areas distinctly.

Centerline Rumble Strips

Source: Mesa County, used with permission by Guidehouse

Description:

Installation of centerline rumble strips on two-lane rural roads. Center rumble strips are milled or raised elements on the pavement designed to alert drivers through vibration and sound when they leave their travel lane. These strips can be installed on the shoulder, edge line, or center line of undivided roadways.



Image Source: The Joint Solution

When/Where to Use:

This tool addresses run off road crashes towards the median (to the left).

Associated Crash Type: Run-off-the-Road Crashes

Cost: $$$$$

Effectiveness Prioritization Score: 40 / 50

Centerline Rumble Strips are associated with a 44-64% reduction in head-on fatal and injury crashes on two-lane rural roads.

Mesa County's Engineering Countermeasure Toolbox uses national frameworks to emphasize both rural and urban solutions and is designed to serve as a resource to create a consistently safer transportation environment.

Aligning Plans into One Framework

City of Athens
Tennessee, Rural, FY23
View the City of Athens Action Plan to learn more

Athens **consolidated guidance from national and local plans into a comprehensive roadmap** that identified needed policy updates and promoted coordination across departments. Athens:

- Used crash data and identified areas of emphasis to develop targeted policy recommendations grounded in Action Plan priorities.
- Organized plans and policies into a unified "Plan Checklist" to align local procedures with national frameworks and find opportunities for coordination.
- Defined clear timelines and stakeholder roles to coordinate and advance policy and procedure updates.

Athens categorized policy and process updates into short-, medium-, and long-term actions to phase implementation.

Action	Timeframe	Lead
Integrate safety policy into all existing documents.	Short-Term	Public Works Department and City Planning Department
Update roadway and intersection design standards to promote safety for all roadway users and address deficiencies.	Short-Term	Public Works Department
Establish a targeted enforcement program (for aggressive driving and high speeds) and coordinate with local law enforcement.	Short-Term	Athens Police Department
Create a "Safety Champion" position/role within the City to organize educational campaigns/ provide information through community outreach.	Short-Term	City Manager's Office

Source: City of Athens, used with permission by Guidehouse