

Navigating Resource-Constrained Environments:

Advancing Safety in Rural Communities



Leverage partnerships, prioritize improvements, and maximize available resources to advance roadway safety in rural communities.

Noteworthy Practices for Advancing Safety in Rural Communities:

- Pool resources, data, and technical expertise across jurisdictions
- Partner with State DOTs, regional organizations, and other stakeholders to advance implementation
- Leverage the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), a required framework that diagnoses critical safety issues and outlines approved strategies for Federal funding
- Engage the community to capture local knowledge and supplement limited datasets
- Phase implementation strategies to align with available funding and staff resources

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

Regional Collaboration as a Force Multiplier



George Washington Regional Planning Commission (GWRC)
Massachusetts, Rural, FY22

[View GWRC's Action Plan to learn more](#)

GWRC pooled resources, data, and decision-making across jurisdictions to expand capacity and achieve more consistent, scalable safety outcomes. GWRC:



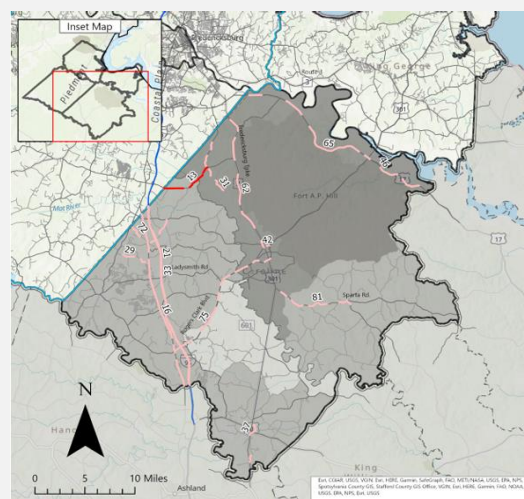
Leveraged staff capacity, technical expertise, and safety data across member jurisdictions, enabling smaller local governments to participate in comprehensive safety planning efforts that would have been difficult to undertake independently.



Established a shared regional framework, including common emphasis areas and a High Injury Network (HIN), to create consistency in how safety risks are identified and addressed across communities.



Supported coordinated project prioritization and investment, helping jurisdictions pursue complementary safety improvements rather than competing for limited resources.



This High-Injury Network (HIN) map illustrates how GWRC uses a shared regional dataset to align jurisdictions around common safety priorities, enabling rural communities to pool resources, target high-risk corridors collectively, and advance more coordinated safety investments.

Source: [GWRC](#), used with permission

Utilizing Regional Technical Assistance



Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS)
Idaho, Rural, FY22

[View COMPASS's Action Plan to learn more](#)

COMPASS collaborated with regional organizations to provide technical assistance, safety data, funding support, and opportunities for information sharing, helping resource-constrained communities advance roadway safety. COMPASS:



Identified common challenges facing member agencies, including limited safety expertise, staff capacity, and the ability to identify projects and pursue grant funding, and incorporated strategies to address these needs.



Maintained a regional Safety Working Group that provides a forum for local agencies to discuss implementation challenges, share lessons learned, coordinate activities, and exchange information on effective roadway safety practices.



Established ongoing support mechanisms, including grant funding assistance, crash analysis support, and regular assessment of implementation successes and challenges.

The COMPASS Safety Working Group convenes stakeholders from across the region to share expertise, coordinate safety initiatives, and help resource-constrained communities access information and support that may not be available locally.

Examples of Organizations Participating in the COMPASS Safety Working Group

USDOT FHWA Idaho Division Office
Idaho Transportation Department
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council
Ada County Highway District
City of Notus
City of Greenleaf

Source: Adapted from [COMPASS](#), used with permission