

MID-SOUTH SAFETY ACTION PLAN (SAP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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The Mid-South region is home to 1.3 million people and functions as a national transportation, logistics, and distribution hub. The region covers three states (Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi), five counties (Crittenden, DeSoto, Fayette, Shelby, and Marshall) and 21 municipalities within the Memphis metropolitan area. Unfortunately, the region has experienced a steady increase in traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries over the past several years. In 2022, the Memphis and West Memphis MPOs initiated the development of a Safety Action Plan (SAP) to establish a framework for reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries across the Mid-South.

The Mid-South SAP provides a clear vision for regionwide traffic safety improvements. The Plan presents a detailed analysis of existing and historical traffic safety conditions; identifies high-risk and/or high-injury locations; evaluates the disparate impacts of traffic crashes within underserved communities; and catalogs a set of strategies and project types that can be used to address the safety issues identified in the Plan. Drawing from the USDOT's Safe System Approach and the international Toward Zero Deaths initiative, the Mid-South SAP introduces a comprehensive set of data and community-driven safety strategies, countermeasures, and action items to guide the implementation of local road safety projects and programs well into the future.

The Plan was informed by feedback from stakeholders and the public. A comprehensive outreach program was launched in the fall of 2022, resulting in valuable input from over 1,000 residents and visitors of the Mid-South region. Additional information regarding the plan development process is available on the Memphis MPO's Safety Action Plan Webpage (<https://memphismpo.org/plans/safety-mobility/mid-south-safety-action-plan>).

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The Mid-South SAP seeks to guide the implementation of both regional and local road safety efforts, thereby improving safety outcomes for all road users. The Mid-South Safety Strategies are organized around four of the five complementary objectives of the Safe System Approach (Safer Roads, Safer Speeds, Safer People, and Enhanced Post-Crash Care) and the Mid-South Countermeasures are directly linked to the infrastructure-based safety objectives (Safer Roads and Safer Speeds). The Mid-South Action Items define implementable activities designed to support and address one or more of the Safety Goals established by the Plan. MPO jurisdictions are encouraged to use the Mid-South Strategies, Countermeasures, and Action Items as a guide in the selection, development, and evaluation of local road safety plans, programs, projects, and/or policy changes. Projects will be considered consistent with the Plan if they fall into at least one of the following categories: the project advances one or more Mid-South Safety Goals or Strategies; the project applies one or more Mid-South Countermeasures or Action Items; or the project proposes infrastructure improvements or programmatic interventions along a designated High Injury Corridor or within an Equity Area.